SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

NEW WORD ORDER from January to December 2006, direct from the mouths of not mere babes but from Cory Aquino to GMA to Erap Estrada to Imelda Marcos to Manny Pacquiao to Rustom Padilla to the Vatican

SUNDAY BIZ /B1

Cop takes time out to smell the flowers and become one of the AFP's best entrepreneurs

LIFESTYLE /C1

Zodiac icons painted by Gilda Cordero-Fernando guided by artist souls like Onib, Riukok, HR, Klimt and Michaelangelo

WELCOME the Year of the Pig with lotsa' fun without pigging out. JOY OVANDO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, December 31, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 33 P18 inquirer.net

Puno: DILG moved Smith late night to avoid traffic

By Norman Bordadora

INTERIOR SECRETARY RONALDO PUNO yesterday said it was his office that decided to hand over American Marine Daniel Smith to US custody and this was in line with a Malacañang decision to comply with treaty obligations, to which President Macapagal-Arroyo agreed "in principle."

Puno and Interior Undersecretary for Public Safety Marian Corpus said that the transfer pushed through late in the night to avoid security complications in case the convoy hearing Smith had to go through heavy traffic between the central business district in Makati and the US Embassy compound in Manila.

"We wanted to reduce security threats from traffic problems. Also, it took some time to do the bilateral, operational and diplomatic coordination which started in

PUNO /A1

'A stab in the back by GMA'

By Tarra V. Quismundo
Norman Bordadora
and Cynthia Balana

ARROGANT TREACHERY. AN UTTERLY shameless act by people who are like "thieves in the night."

A raw deal against the Filipino people. A stab in the back by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo.

These were some of the virulent reactions provoked by the mid-flight-of-the-night transfer on Friday of US Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith from a Makati jail back to the custody of the US Embassy despite his conviction on charges of raping a Filipino woman.

"Nicole," the rape victim, said she heard about the transfer on midnight of Friday and it brought her to tears.

"Talagang buntaon na ito ng Aarap-tuapon (This is now really in your face dumbfoundness.). All that they would defend was the relationship between the US and Philippines... Is this really how the Philippine government is? Only in the Philippines. I am so dismayed," said Nicole, spilling out her anger in a mix of English and Filipino.

For the 23-year-old Filipino woman who won a historic rape case against Smith, getting up yesterday morning after hearing the news the night before was like waking up from a nightmare.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga branded the government move to hand Smith back to the Americans as "a raw deal and a midnight transaction."

Salonga, one of the country's most respected lawyers, said the victims of the government's giving in to US pressure were Nicole and the country's justice system.

"The raw deal was done against Nicole and the judicial process... against Judge Benjamin Pozon, also against the Court of Appeals," Salonga

A STAB /A8

Saddam Hussein hanged

EXECUTED FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY: SADDAM HUSSEIN; AP.

Faced death without hood, with Koran

BAGHDAD—MOMENTS BEfore he was hanged by the dawn's early light in Baghdad yesterday for crimes against humanity, Saddam Hussein refused to have his head hooded.

"He carried a Koran and said: 'I want this Koran to be given to this person,' a man he called Bandar," National Security advisor Mowaffak al-Rubaie told state-run Iraqiyah television news.

A judge read the sentence to Saddam, who was taken in handcuffs to the execution room. Where he stood in the execution room, photographs and video footage were taken, according to al-Rubaie.

Sami al-Askari, a political adviser to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, said Saddam "was taken by force to the gallows [by several hooded men] but he was composed when taken to execution."

Al-Askari said the government had not decided what to do with Saddam's body.

It was a grim end for Hussein, 69, the shotgun-waving dictator who ruled Iraq with remorseless brutality for a quarter-century and was driven from power by a US-led war that left his country in shambles.

Iraqiya television news reported that Saddam's half-brother Barzan Ibrahim and Awad Hamed al-Bandar, the former chief justice of the Revolutionary Court, also were hanged. However, three officials said only Saddam was executed.

The stories earlier was airing national songs after the first announcement and had a tag on the screen that read "Saddam's execution marks the end of a dark period of Iraq's history."

President George W. Bush called Saddam's execution "the kind of justice he denied the victims of his brutal regime."

SADDAM /A15

Fate of dictators from Hitler to Saddam

BAGHDAD—SOME DIED IN OFFICE, still clinging to the reins of power; some—such as Saddam Hussein—were deposed and executed, while others spent the rest of their lives in exile or as fugitives from justice.

Here are the fates of some former dictators since the end of World War II in 1945.

DIED IN OFFICE:

• ADOLF HITLER. Committed suicide in his Berlin bunker on April 30, 1945, shortly after Soviet Red Army forces entered the capital of his Third Reich.

• JOSEPH STALIN. Master of the Kremlin for more than 30 years, the Soviet Union's leader died of a stroke on March 5, 1953, after an all-night dinner.

• ANTONIO DE OLIVEIRA SALAZAR. Portugal's dictator for 36 years suffered a major stroke in 1968 and died on July 27, 1970.

• FRANCISCO FRANCO. The Spanish head of state known as "Generalissimo Franco" died on Nov. 20, 1975, of heart problems at the age of 83.

• MAO ZEDONG. The founder of the People's Republic of China and then its leader for 27 years, Mao died in Beijing on Sept. 9, 1976, aged 82.

• KIM IL-SUNG. The "eternal president" of North Korea ruled from 1946 until his death from a stroke in July 1994, when he was succeeded by his son

METE /A15

HOTLINES: SURE, New Year's Eve is the night to have the most fun. But just in case of an emergency, here are the numbers to call if you need police, medical or the fire department's assistance.

Nationwide	**117**
Makati	**168**
Marikina	**161**

For police, fire hotlines in all other Metro Manila areas, turn to Page A6.

WHAT'S INSIDE

HOT BUZZ: Sore losers still hog center stage, as usual, at the Metro Manila Film Fest even if it's now on its 22nd year.

NEWS /A7

HOT-TEMPERED: GMA berates mayors from that province of gunslingers, Abra, when they ask her to restore their administrative control over the police.

NEWS /A2

Revelry burts animals most

By Tessa R. Salazar
and Jerome Aning

HUMANS WON'T BE THE ONLY VICtims of firecracker accidents during the New Year's Eve revelry. Cowering in terror and in panic will be millions of household pets who literally have no say in such celebrations.

REVELRY /A15

Do's, don'ts on fireworks for those who never learn

By Christian V. Esguerra

AS DECEMBER DRAWS TO A CLOSE each year, many parts of Metro Manila resemble a war zone after dusk, reverberating to the repeated bursts of firecrackers which sound like heavy artillery.

The holiday season celebrations sadly come hand in hand with deaths and injuries, many among children.

Before the New Year's Eve revelries could even kick off, police reported that injuries from the traditional merrymaking had already exceeded by 80 percent the recorded number when the country welcomed 2006.

Fearing the number of injuries could increase by tomorrow, New Year's Eve, Dr. Enrique Tayag, the Department of Health's chief epidemiologist, has issued fresh warnings against firecrackers and advised the public on what to do in case of accidents.

The public has heard all before but it bears repeating:

• Stop using firecrackers and settle for safer noise-makers like horns (coconut). Celebrate with concerts or parties, not with firecrackers.

• If you must have pyrotechnics, go to specific locations in your community where professionals hold fireworks displays. The key word here is professional, meaning the show is handled by experts.

• Never use firecrackers while under the influence of liquor.

• Always have water on standby. Firecrackers that don't explode should be

DO'S, DON'TS /A2

CELEBRATE, not eliminate, life and limb at the dawn of a new year. INQUIRER PHOTO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

POLICE CONTROL ISSUE

President loses cool, berates Abra mayors

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo berated a group of Abra mayors who requested that she restore their administrative control over the police, even as security has been tightened in their province following the Dec. 16 killing of Abra Rep. Luis Bersamin Jr.

The President has so far refrained from commenting on the political tension gripping Abra in the wake of Bersamin's murder outside a church in Quezon City.

Ms Arroyo led the annual Rizal Day rites here yesterday and offered an opinion about the situation in Abra when asked by reporters.

Just according to La Paz Mayor Joseph Bernos, the President lost her temper during a meeting with some mayors from Abra who raised their concerns about their vulnerability after the Bersamin murder.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo reviews the line of Philippine Military Academy cadets during the commemoration of Rizal Day at the Rizal Park, West Burnham, Baguio City, on Friday.

Police powers

The President met at least 11 Abra mayors on Dec. 26, when she hosted dinner at the Presidential Malacañan house for around 200 Northern Luzon local officials.

Acting Baguio Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr., who was at the meeting, said "the [Abra] mayors were allowed some time to speak in her [and they began by] asking for their powers back."

Malacañang placed Abra under the control of the national police in 2003, after a fact-finding team found that the province's politicians were employing private armed groups to the point of virtually "privatizing" the police force, and soldiers were working as bodyguards for local politicians.

The team included Director Arturo Serzoza, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, who was the Cordillera police director in that time. Serzoza is now leading the CIDG's probe of the Bersamin murder.

Reprisal fears

Raised on the issue's recommendation, Malacañang withdrew the control over local police of all Abra officials, including Gov. Vicente Valera.

According to Bernos, some lawyers raised the issue of restoring their authority over the police with the President, saying that Bersamin's murder had opened them to political reprisals.

Bautista said the mayors' request only angered Ms Arroyo, who replied that withdrawing their police powers was one of the solutions to stop the violence in Abra.

Bernos and Bautista quoted Ms Arroyo as saying that the mayors' police powers would be abused.

No more killings

Bernos whose brother, Mayor Mac Vicod Bernos, was killed last Jan. 15, said he was satisfied with the new security measures taken after Bersamin's murder.

He said Ms Arroyo ordered Chief Supt. Raul Gonzales, the Cordillera police director, to make sure there would be no more killings with the 2007 election period about to start.

Balweg murder

Bernos said that among the mayors who raised the issue on the restoration of police powers was Ruskin Moyer Khalled Molintas, a leader of the rescinded Commission of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army, which was founded by slain rebel priest Conrado Balweg.

Subleng, who was murdered by communist rebels in Abra in 1999, lost to Bersamin in the 1998 congressional race.

In a press conference here on Friday, Director General Oscar Calderon, chief of the Philippine National Police, implicated another Abra mayor in the slaying of a public attorney last year.

Lawyer's killing

He said Bolinay Mayor Ronald Balaoan and his father, Bendix, a former mayor, ordered the murder of lawyer Alexander Vinluan. Charged in Public Attorney's Office on Sept. 5, 2005.

Calderon promised Bernard Panoing, the alleged gunman, at the news conference.

Death threats

Gonzales said Panoing continued to the murder after he was arrested in Cavite on Dec. 21.

Panoing, police said, shot Campbell near her house in Baguio.

MAJ-Gen. Rosalio Rosales Jr. vowed to had assigned Campbell to Abra where she was several cases against local politicians. Death threats against Campbell forced Acosta to reassign her to Baguio.

Private armies

At the time of her death, Campbell was handling a case involving her husband, Atilio, and a Bellamy official.

"We are starting to neutralize the private armies and warlords in Abra," Rosales said, adding up information from around [the provincial] boundaries [where members live]. There is a presumption [there are people who will] volunteer to join private armies [in the May 2007 elections]."

Calderon said Vhenard Calderon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Valera to stay in jail for unlicensed guns

By Dona Pazzibugan

ABRA GOV. VICENTE VALERA has been charged with illegal possession of firearms as the Quezon City prosecutor's office, and will remain in detention through New Year's Day.

Valera, the principal suspect in the Dec. 16 assassination of Abra Rep. Luis Bersamin Jr. and his police escort Adolfo Ortega, were brought before Quezon City state prosecutor Ramon Bencio.

Valera and his three bodyguards—Oscar Abella, Pedro Cardo Jr. and Lee Bello—were charged for the unlicensed guns and a hand grenade found inside the governor's Chevrolet Suburban.

No bail ruling

Bencio has not yet decided whether to grant bail.

The police said Valera and his three bodyguards would remain in the Philippine National Police Custodial Center in Camp Crame.

The governor's vehicle was stopped by PNP Traffic Management Group operatives in Quezon City before dawn last Friday for traveling without license plates and using a siren.

The team found an automatic assault rifle, six pistols and a fragmentation grenade inside the vehicle. Valera claimed the grenade was "planted."

Permits revoked

Chief Supt. Joseph Dero, head of the TMG legal division, said the prosecutor's office will file charges against Valera and his bodyguards for illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Dero said Valera's permits to carry the firearms had been revoked last year.

Director Jesus Verzosa, head of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said the CIDG would get an official statement from Valera concerning the Bersamin assassination.

Bersamin and his police bodyguard were gunned down outside Mt. Carmel Church in New Manila, Quezon City last Dec. 16, after attending the wedding of Bersamin's cousin.

No show

He was earlier summoned by Task Force Bersamin to give a statement on the killing after an eyewitness, Barbara Pandan, identified Valera as the mastermind.

The governor, however, did not show up, although he gave an interview to the Inquirer denying that he was involved in Bersamin's murder.

Valera has not been charged for the Bersamin's killing.

The police said Valera had just come from the house of his supposed girlfriend, former beauty queen Gerjelyn Mangilin, in Tivona Heights in Quezon City when traffic operatives spotted his vehicle last Friday.

Friend's house

A team from the CIDG and the National Bureau of Investigation also conducted a search of Mangilin's house, but found no firearms.

PNP chief Director General Oscar Calderon has ordered all gun permits to Abra revoked because of the wave of political violence in the province.

Following his arrest, Valera told reporters in Camp Crame that he had an motive to kill Bersamin.

He said he and Bersamin had both run under the Lampi administration party in the last elections.

"Somebody is poisoning the minds of the bereaved family of Chito [Bersamin]," he said.

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OFW SERVICES

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

'New name for peace is dev't'

By Jaymie Aning

LAGSAMIO

"THE NEW NAME FOR peace is development," Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines President and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said yesterday as he urged Filipinos, in his New Year's Day Message, to do help one another in alleviating the lives of the marginalized and neglected.

"The promotion of development demands collective intervention and responsibility of governments, churches, peace keepers and the entire society," he said. "This is how peace is not only in time of calamities brought about by typhoons, fire and tsunamis but also in the normal times."

According to Lagdameo, development must be seen in terms of food on the table of the poor, secure employment for the millions here in the country, low cost medicine for the families of workers, scholarships for the poorest and decent homes for squatters and slum-dwellers.

"It will be a better year when more and more of the marginalized and exploited are offered opportunities to work for and acquire their permanent shelter, genuine health benefits, liberating education, dignified employment and above all unfettered food," he added.

The Archbishop noted that Jan. 1, for the past 36 years, have been observed as the World Day of Peace.

However, he said, peace does not mean the mere absence of hostility, hatred and war, in the climate of violence and counter-violence.

Peace, as a moral imperative, "is brought about by justice, respecting respect for human dignity and human rights, the promotion of the common good by one and all, and the common practice in solidarity," the prelate explained.

He also recalled the late Pope John Paul II saying that "Peace is the fruit of love which goes beyond what justice can provide."

Lagdameo added, "Unless there is work of justice and love in our situation, our peace will be in a precarious state. It is difficult, but together we can do it!"

EU allots $2.6M for RP typhoon victims

BRUSSELS—THE EUROPEAN COMMission allocated Friday two million euros ($2.6 million) in humanitarian aid for victims of typhoons in the Philippines that have killed more than a thousand people since late September.

The emergency aid will help provide drinking-water, medical support, sanitation, non-food items and contributes to repairing shelters, the Commission, the European Union's executive body, said in a statement.

The Philippines National Disaster Coordinating Council said Thursday that a series of tropical disasters had left more than 1,000 people dead or missing since this year.

Four typhoons towards the end of the year and a series of deadly landslides left at least 1,012 people dead and 1,009 missing and believed dead, the civil defense agency said in its annual report.

It said the total damage to agriculture and infrastructure from the typhoons and the landslides was estimated to P22.1 billion.

"Continuous rainfall in the affected area is further aggravating the situation and it is feared that the area cannot withstand further rains or flooding," the Commission said.

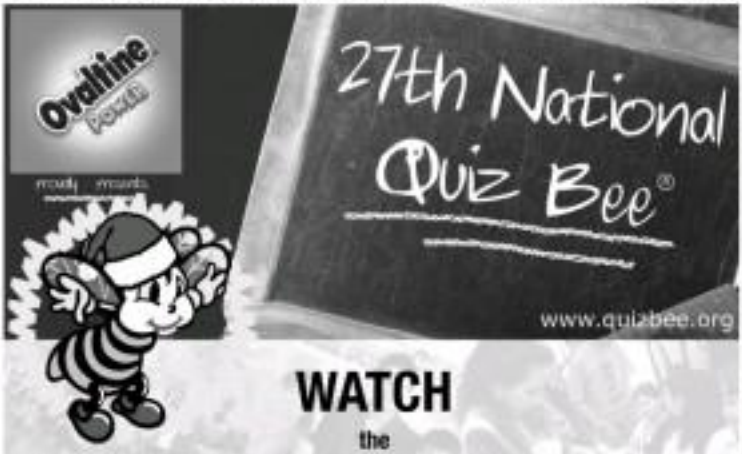
The Philippines is one of the most catastrophe-prone countries in the world.

It is hit by numerous storms and typhoons each year, and sits in the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where continental plates meet, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity.

Widespread poverty also leaves large numbers of people in fragile, densely populated areas, such as near river banks and coastal areas that are prone to flooding, and on unstable mountain slopes or near volcanoes.

AFP

THE BATTLE FOR INTELLECTUAL SUPREMACY CONTINUES...



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 31, 2006
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

I will offer him

Hannah became pregnant. She gave birth to a son and called him Samuel because she said, "I have asked Yahweh to give him to me."

Once more Elkanah went to the temple with his family to offer the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow to Yahweh. Hannah would not go along but she said to her husband, "I will bring the child there to you as he is weaned. He shall be presented to Yahweh and stay there forever."

When the child was weaned, Hannah took him with her along with a three-year-old bull, a measure of flour and a flask of wine, and she brought him to Yahweh's house at Shiloh. The child was still young.

After they had slain the bull, they brought the child to Eli. Hannah exclaimed: "Oh, my lord, look! I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to Yahweh. I asked for this child and Yahweh granted me the favor I begged of him. Now, I think, Yahweh is asking for this child. As long as he lives, he belongs to Yahweh."

And they worshiped Yahweh there.

God's wholeness

1 Jn 2:1-2, 21-24

See what singular love the Father has for us: we are called children of God, and we really are. This is why the world does not know us, because it did not know him.

Beloved, our sin God's children and what we shall be has not yet been shown. We when he appears to his glory, we know that we shall be like him, for then we shall see him as he is.

Where was sinfulness first set timeframe, that remains, in any heart or mind, which does not God. Then whatever we ask we shall receive, since we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

His command is that we believe in the Name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he has commanded us.

Whoever keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. It is by the Spirit God has given us that we know he remains in us.

Gospel — Luke 2:41-52

I must be in my Father's house

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, as was customary. And when Jesus was 12 years old, he went up with them according to the custom for this feast. After the festival was over, they returned, but the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem and his parents did not know it.

They thought he was in the company and after walking the whole day they looked for him among their relatives and friends. As they did not find him, they were back to Jerusalem searching for him, and on the third day they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. And all the people were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

His parents were very surprised when they saw him and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I were very worried while searching for you." Then he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Do you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand his answers.

Jesus went down with them, returning to Nazareth, and he remained, as he always was there. As for his mother, she kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and age, and in favor and kindness.

Commentary:

Hannah prays for a child and when God grants her the gift, she rejoices and returns the child to God when he is old enough to be weaned. The child has always belonged to Yahweh. Every child has been given the beginning belonged to God and is entrusted to their parents to give back to God. We are but the children of God, entrusted with the task to live, in the spirit of Jesus, the Word made flesh. This is who we truly are! We were created to love, each in our own singular way. Mary and Joseph had to learn that their child was not theirs, but belonged to God alone. We must accept this year starting for who Jesus truly is—not what we want him to be for us, but what he is before God. And we must, with Jesus, grow in wisdom and grace as we grow in years.

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NEWS & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Puno: DILG moved Smith late night to avoid traffic

From page A1

the office here," Puno said.

"[He transferred him] during the night [for security reasons because there'd be less traffic," Devanadera said.

"It was a DILG [Department of the Interior and Local Government] decision," Puno said in a text message to the Inquirer.

Puno said Ida Arroyo and the Cabinet's national security cluster agreed even before Christmas that the department of foreign affairs, justice and the interior should find the most appropriate legal means to comply with the Visiting Forces Agreement with regard to Smith's custody.

"There was an approval in principle to find the appropriate mechanisms in complying with the VFA. And we decided that the most appropriate means was to comply with the court decision," Puno said in a separate phone interview.

Puno noted that Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon, in his Dec. 4 decision sentencing Smith of rape, ruled that the American shall be kept in the Makati City Jail "until such time that the Philippine and US governments agree on the place of detention" in accordance with the provisions.

Place of detention

He claimed that this was compliant with what Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and US Ambassador Kristie Kenney signed as agreement on Dec. 22 to the effect that Smith would be detained at the Nasa Building instead of the US Embassy compound.

"In other words, although the Philippine government will have access to Smith's place of detention "to ensure that the US is in compliance with the terms of the VFA."

"The agreement signed by [Romulo and Kenney] is meant to assure the Philippines that Smith wouldn't be spirited away while he is detained at the American Embassy here," Corpus said.

Corpus has custodial supervision over Smith, being in charge of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology that oversees the Makati jail.

First time

"[It's] the first time they have allowed access to their premises anytime," said Corpus.

Puno said the interior department on Friday contacted the US Embassy after receiving the Romulo-Kenney agreement and the DOJ opinion favoring Smith's transfer to US custody.

The DOJ opinion was signed by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on Thursday.

"The question of whether the manner of complying with the VFA was legally sound never left to the departments. So we went to the Department of Justice for a legal opinion," Puno said.

"It's not to overrule the DOJ opinion on the fact that the transfer was in full compliance with the court decision that we decided to push through with the transfer. This was already the opinion of our legal [division]," Puno said.

"It was a DOJ decision to comply with [Pozon's] decision in accordance with the DOJ opinion," Puno said.

"We were just the implementers of the court decision in accordance with our treaty obligations under the VFA," he added.

"The minute that the [Romulo-Kenney] agreement was signed we already lost the right to have custody of [Daniel] Smith," Puno said.

Executive prerogative

He said Smith's transfer happened close to midnight because it took time for the Makati regional trial court to issue the commitment order, which he said encapsulated Gonzalez's stand.

DFA upholds legality

"In his resolution, the reason for denial of the Makati Regional Trial Court has ceased to exist because the Philippine government has complied with the Judge's ruling by way of submission of an agreement signed by the DFA Secretary who the judge has specifically named as having the authority to sign," said Barbers.

The Department of Foreign Affairs also upheld the legality of handing over Smith back to American custody.

DFA spokesperson Ed Malaya said "the supervision of custody is in compliance with the treaty obligations."

"It does not diminish the gravity of his crime for which he had been convicted under our laws," Malaya said in a statement.

Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ruben Reyes said the removal of Smith from the Makati jail ahead of the final decision of the Court of Appeals did not constitute an affront to the appellate court.

Asked if he views the matter as an insult to the court, Reyes replied: "I would not take it in that light because this issue is susceptible to interpretation."

He said a defense ruling by the court's division under Associate Justice Apolinario D. Bruselas Jr. next week may finally "clear up the issue." With reports from Tarra C. Cabacungan Jr., Edu Castrence and Armand Nocum

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Mandaluyong	532-2400 532-5788	532-3742 532-3333
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Pasig	641-1808 641-2081	643-0438 641-6588
Quezon City	924-1821 924-1822 920-2871 929-6260	920-1378 921-4146 921-2233 921-4728

Do's, don'ts on fireworks for those who never learn

From page A1

hand clown. People are often injured when they pick up firecrackers that blow up after appearing to be duds.

- Do not experiment with firecrackers. People sometimes fill bottles with gunpowder along with metals.
- Administer first aid to a firecracker explosion victim by washing the injured body part with soap and running water.
- A child who ingests wasted, or the dancing firecracker, should be made to swallow an egg whites. The dose should be doubled for adult victims. The egg white absorbs the yellow phosphorus, the toxic substance in the wound.
- Whatever the injury be it serious or minor, victims should be immediately brought to the hospital.

From Dec. 21 to 28, the Department of Health recorded 205 injuries, against 169 during the same period in 2005, said Tayag.

Of the total, 194 people were hurt by firecrackers while 10 were hit by stray bullets. A lone victim swallowed the lighter, he warned.

Some of the firecrackers are homemade, case filled with explosive powder with a crude fuse attached. Many are churned out in small workshops and factories around Manila's suburbs.

Hundreds are wounded each year when the firecrackers burst prematurely.

Most victims male

Tayag said 22 of the firecracker injuries were caused by the "piccolo," 25 by the "five star," 14 by the "talaba bomb," and 13 by the "triangle."

Most of the victims were male (240), including 71 bystanders.

Sixty-eight of the victims were injured in the eye while 119 required amputation.

This year, some of the fireworks on sale have prompted the government to take action.

Police in Metro Manila have banned the sale and use of whistle bomb, a like called "Bogus," which contains basically of a plastic pipe with a trigger, pattern to make it look like the real thing.

Seven have been injured, blinded or deafened by the pipes, many because they pierced inside the barrel after pulling the trigger.

Police have ordered the confiscation of the device, but still hundreds of bogus already sold, few have confidence police will be able to fully implement the order.

Tayag said the Bogus, which is triggered using intoxicated alcohol, had injured 28 people, 24 of them to the eyes. One of the victims needed amputation, he said.

Looks like real thing

"These devices really cause serious injuries and people should stay away from them," Tayag said.

Ronald Sumudac, who gave up his job as a taxi driver last year to manufacture the device full time, says it is not as dangerous as other fireworks.

"It looks like a real weapon, though different. Its style with an attached toy gun as a grip," he told Reuters after demonstrating how the device worked.

"So it will be hot, clean," he said.

Other vendors also say their wares are not dangerous but that they get a bad press.

"Quite an very bad [wrapping of] TV news," said Oscar Endaya, who has sold fireworks in the Divisoria market for five years.

"There is so much bad news. But what I am selling is not dangerous," she said.

Parents say they are not taking any chances. With little regulation of the industry and no safety standards, consumers say they will not risk starting the New Year with tragedy.

"We want to avoid any accidents. I am scared we will get hurt. Money for food might end up being used to pay for hospital bills," said Siri Parrado, a mother of three. With a report from Reuters

Controversy continues to hound Manila film festival

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AS USUAL, CONTROVERSY HOUNDED the Metro Manila Film Festival awards ceremony held at the Aliw Theater on Friday, where Judy Ann Santos and Cesar Montano ran off with best actress honors.

The chaos-filled event was over the choice of "Tanong Kahlimon" (produced by Octoarts and 3H Ent, in their 1st year—it's only second).

Star Cinema executive producer Malou N. Santos, was already upset over having to settle for the Second Best Picture award for the story "Basil, Basil, Basilio."

In her acceptance speech she burst out: "After four years, we've decided to join the festival (again). I don't know if I made the right decision... I believe 'Kasal' is the real Best Picture."

The controversy was over the judging criteria which gave "commercial viability" equivalent points to "artistic/technical excellence."

Bo Custodio, MMFF executive committee member, said he was "surprised" by Santos' unhappy outburst because all producers who joined the festival read and signed the rules and regulations which defined the criteria.

According to Isagani Yupangco Cruz, dean of MMFF's rules and legal affairs committee, "commercial viability" comprises 40 percent of the criteria for Best Picture; artistic and technical excellence, and global appeal, another 40 percent; Filipino cultural values, 20 percent."

On the fourth day of the two-week festival, "Tanong" has posted the highest earnings so far—it's so far at P5.4 million, while "Kasal" was second with P42.1 million.

Still, "Kasal" brought home the lion's share of the awards that evening, winning six other trophies: Best Director, Original Story and Screenplay (for Joyce Bernal); Best Actress (Judy Ann Santos); Best Supporting Actress (Gina Alajar); and Best Original Theme Song ("Ang Commandment's "Hanash-Kanang"). It also won two special honors: Most Gender Sensitive Film and the Gatpuno Antonio J. Villegas Cultural Award.

"Mano Po 5" won four trophies: Best Cinematography (Charlie Peralta), Musical Score (Von de Guzman), Sound Recording (Dino Agulto) and Production Design (Felipe Librado).

"Ligalig" won three awards: Best Actor (Cesar Montano), Supporting Actor (Johnny Delgado) and Editing (Jason Carbaguer).

"Tatlong Baraha" won three awards: Best Makeup (Baby Lucero), Visual Effects (Imaginary Friends) and Best Float.

Third Best Picture "Shake Rattle & Roll 8" got one other award for Best Child Performer Mark Ignacio. The horror trilogy from Regal has earned P28.6 million at the box office so far.

The producers of the nine films released (5 million entries) each courtesy of President Macapagal-Arroyo (but viewing).

In return, the MMFF gave the President a Lifetime Achievement Award for her "support of the movie industry."

Back in the controversy: Malou Santos explained: "I have nothing against 'Tanong.' We have a film now of 'Tanong.' I'm done to me... But at the end of the day, it's all politics."

Best Actress Judy Ann Santos said she is pleased with her trophy, but added: "Everyone has his own opinion. The (Best Picture) result is no big deal to me. What is important to me is that the public enjoyed our movie."

Orly Basil, "Tanong" producer, was unruffled. He told the bosses: "Next year, there is controversy in the MMFF. Last year it was about 'Kutch.' As I've said before whenever we entered an awards ceremony we don't expect anything. We are prepared as it is. But I am very very grateful that we were because we spent a lot of time and effort on 'Tanong.'"

As for the present, Basil said: "Every producer thinks his or her film is the best. We were not the ones who voted; we were just the recipients of the award. Perhaps 'Tanong' has the (most) criteria to be a Best Picture."

A possible solution offered by filmmaker Joey Romero, MMFF screening committee member, is a "review of the criteria."

"If we want to give recognition to the big grosser, then we should give it the box-office champion award. But the Best Picture should remain the Best Picture," Romero said.

WINNERS ALL. Cesar Montano (Best Actor), Judy Ann Santos (Best Actress) and Gina Pareno (Best Supporting Actress) celebrate their triumph at the Metro Manila Film Festival Award night at the Aliw Theater in Pasay City, Thursday

Seized explosives no 'firecrackers' –NBI

By Tina G. Santos

THE DAMAGE WOULD HAVE been more extensive than originally believed had the "firecrackers" seized from a man about to board a flight rail train at the Monumento station in Caloocan City on Friday exploded, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said on Saturday.

Special Investigator 4 Romeo Gavingan of the NBI Explosives and Ordnance Division said that had the explosives seized from Rolvin Figueroa, 21, of Iloilo, Caramoran Ilaw Mercado, it would have affected those to five 1,077 matches and everything else within a 20-meter radius.

Gavingan, who claimed the NBI arrived in the area at least one hour before the police did, said that among the items seized from the suspect were five time fuses, a bottle containing black powder believed to be a bomb component, five sticks of dynamite, a bottle of cologne and several firecrackers like super bins and wrisbol.

Gavingan said it appeared Figueroa's bad eyes placed "NBI explosives" on the seized items.

Gavingan said that although the items had yet to be confirmed by laboratory tests, he believed they "were dangerous explosives and not just pyrotechnics."

He said the NBI was not able to run lab tests on the items because these were immediately brought to Camp Crame in Quezon City by police officials, for further examination according to Northern Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Tango.

Initial reports had said that six to nine matches had been found on Figueroa.

"Perhaps this was to prevent causing panic among the people that we should tell the truth because several people would have been affected," Gavingan said, pointing out the incident occurred on the eve of the LRT Rail Day bombing that years ago.

During interrogation, Figueroa reportedly said he had bought the firecrackers in Bulacan and was taking them home to Iloilo, after somebody there had asked him to bring some pyrotechnics for the New Year's Eve celebration.

The NBI, however, said the suspect's excuse that the explosives were to be used for the weekly "very-reasons."

"Kasado na ito e, siguradong sa Iloilo (They were seized, all they needed was to be lit)," Gavingan said.

The Rizal Day arrests of June 30, 2000, killed 22 people and wounded hundreds in four different places in Metro Manila, including a light rail train, and were believed carried out by regional and local Muslim terrorist groups.

But NPD chief Tango, in a telephone interview with the bureau, downplayed the most recent incident, saying that "the materials taken from the suspect could be made into an explosive device but there was no empirical indication that the materials would be used to cause terror." With reports by C. Carvajal

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RP to implement global mapping, profiling system for overseas jobs

By Jovanie Aning

THE PHILIPPINES WILL IMPLEMENT a global mapping and profiling system that would make it easier to match Filipino workers with skills needed abroad in order to ensure they have quality jobs, the Department of Labor and Employment said yesterday.

Speaking during the opening of a conference in Manila of labor attaches representing 39 Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (Polos) around the world, Labor Undersecretary for Employment Danilo Cruz said that through the new system, OFWs and their skills would be profiled and matched with world demand.

This would speed up their deployment and ensure that the Filipino going overseas would also have quality jobs with good employers waiting for them, he said.

Studies trends today would also be studied so that future OFWs, even while still in school, would be trained with the skills that would guarantee them employment. A labor official said that while Filipino workers were in demand abroad, many could not be hired for lack of the proper skills.

As the Polos will be in the frontline of this service to OFWs, Cruz called on the labor attachés for Japan to join in achieve an efficient skills mapping and profiling abroad, many could not be hired for lack of the proper skills.

He told the Philippines should take advantage of the continued worldwide preference for OFWs, as he pointed out that the government had surpassed its one-millionth OFW deployment target.

"Along this line, I urge you to be judicious in the use of resources, and to exercise due diligence, as I also emphasize the importance of accountability in your actions in the service to our OFWs," he added.

Cruz said this the year would be to intensify the massive information ways of providing better protection to OFWs, including improved Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars to better prepare them for the realities of working overseas, and the enhanced reintegration program for the OFWs and their families.

The five-day Polo conference began in Tagaytay City on Dec. 27-28 and will end in Pasay City on Jan. 3-5, 2007.

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U.S. Embassy closed on Jan. 2

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush has declared Jan. 2, 2007, a National Day of Mourning in honor of President Gerald R. Ford, who died on Dec. 26.

All US government departments and agencies will be closed that day, the US Embassy in Manila said in a press statement.

The US Embassy in Manila and the US Consulate Agency in Cebu will be closed for business on Tuesday. All interviews scheduled for Jan. 2 will be rescheduled on Jan. 3. The US Embassy said it would inform all applicants of the change.

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a front-page story—"Cops hold Valera; gal friend's home searched"—misstated that the 40-MM is an automatic assault rifle. It is a submachine gun.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

September 29, 2006

REVENUE MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 73-2006

SUBJECT: Extension of the Deadline for Availment of the Improved Voluntary Assessment Program (IVAP) for Taxable Year 2005 and Prior Years under Certain Conditions.

TO: All Internal Revenue Officials, Employees and Others Concerned

Pursuant to Section 6 of RR No. 19-2006 giving the undersigned the authority to extend the deadline for the availment of the IVAP under meritorious circumstances, the aforesaid deadline which has been extended to December 29, 2006 is hereby further extended until January 31, 2007.

This Circular shall take effect immediately. All revenue officers and employees are hereby enjoined to give this Circular an wide a publicity as possible.

JOSE MARIO C. BUNAG
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

He was gone in 30 minutes

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IN 30 MINUTES, AMERICAN RAPE CONVICT Daniel Smith was gone.

That was how long it took for the 21-year-old Marine to pack his things—uniforms, clothes, books—and board the vehicle that whisked him out of the Makati City Jail and on to the US Embassy just after 11 p.m. on Friday, Supt. Rolvic Orante told the local press yesterday.

"Highest ch (it was sudden, eh). He only had a few belongings so he was able to pack quickly. I saw that he had two bags, athletic bags I think, when he left," the BJMP warden said.

Altogether, Smith spent 23 days in a Philippine jail, the subject of a custody battle that pitted a Makati judge against the United States government, which was backed by President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

Officials of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), which administered the jail, said they had no idea Smith would be leaving until four US officials and two officers from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) arrived at around 11 p.m. to pick up the Marine, Orante said.

"He was awake... We were awake because we are public servants," said Orante. "We are open 24 hours, and we are on red alert. We knew that he was going to be taken anytime."

Throughout his stay in a room separate from the rest of the 982% (more than 600 detainees, Smith had security men from the US Embassy guarding him, among them members of the American military.

A source privy to Smith's transfer said the American Marine, jailed on Dec. 4 after being convicted of raping a Filipino woman last year, already knew at 10:30 p.m. that he was going to be returned to the US Embassy, or half an hour before jail officials knew, by Orante's account.

US-Philippine deal

Orante said DILG officials, led by Undersecretary for Public Safety Marius Corpus, had brought the documents for Smith's transfer, including an agreement between Philippine and US authorities that Smith should be returned to American custody pending an appeal of his conviction, as stipulated in the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

Smith and his three co-accused, who were acquitted of the rape charges—Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpenter—were held at the embassy during the yearlong court proceedings.

Smith was the only one held at the BJCI, a holding facility the rapists still facing trial.

Goodbye to the warden

"He was between two big men from the US Embassy when he was walking to their vehicle," Orante said, recounting Smith's departure from the jailhouse. "He was wearing a white undershirt, blue basketball shorts and a pair of sneakers."

"He shook my hand and he hugged me, tapped my back... Maybe it was his gesture of thanking me because I was his custodian in the jail. He said something to me but I did not quite understand it," Orante said.

"The embassy vehicles then drove away.

The BJMP Metro Manila director, Supt. Ismaël Ontuerto Jr., said the RP-US agreement ensuring Smith or US custody gave the BJMP and the Philippine National Police the right to inspect Smith's detention facility inside the embassy.

10 x 12 feet

According to the agreement, Smith will be held on the ground floor of the Rowe AFS-BIAG (Joint US Military Advisory Group) building within the embassy compound, inside a room that measures 10 feet by 12 feet, Ontuerto said.

"We will have regular inspections of his detention facility, surprise inspections even, because the agreement said we have access to him anytime. We will do that depending on the order of the DILG," said Ontuerto.

He reiterated that BJCI, scrutinized transfer of Smith, which was carried out even before the Court of Appeals could rule on Smith's petition seeking his return to US custody.

Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon, who convicted Smith of rape, had joined the plea, saying that the US right of custody over Smith, as stipulated in the VFA, "was terminated after the completion of the trial and rendition of judgment of conviction."

Nothing illegal

"The transfer was not illegal because (according to him) Judge Pozon's ruling that he (Smith) will be committed to the city jail only on a temporary basis and until the Philippine and US governments agreed on where Smith should be held," Barreiro said.

"Now, there's already an agreement."

Pozon, however, had also ruled that the embassy was not among the facilities Smith could serve his sentence of up to 40 years in as the Philippine courts would lose custody over him.

Barreiro said that keeping Smith at the BCJ would have violated many laws, including the Revised Penal Code, which provides for the commitment of convicts to facilities of the Bureau of Corrections, and the RPRH.

"We would keep on violating the Revised Penal Code, the Constitution and international law on the treatment of inmates if we kept Smith at the BCJ," he said.

RAGE RUNS IN THE STREETS leading to the US Embassy on Saturday. Protesters condemn President Aquino as a traitor for approving the return of convicted rapist Marine Daniel Smith to US custody.

'A stab

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MIDNIGHT GOAL? Sprung from the Makati City Jail close to midnight Friday, Smith is seen at the US Embassy compound where the convicted witness was sent a year in his sure digs.

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OPINION

Acting stupid

EDITORIAL

FORREST GUMP'S LONG-SUFFERING MOTHER got it right: Stupid is as stupid does. How else explain the inevitable procession of bloodied victims, many of them in never-pain from self-inflicted injuries, to the country's emergency rooms every New Year's Eve?

Without fail, the most avoidable cause of injury known to medical science soars in explosive bend as the old year winds down and the new calendar begins. What is worse, firecracker accidents and similar mishaps seem to follow an accelerated timetable: They do not wait until the New Year countdown to take their often deadly toll.

According to the Department of Health, in the week from Dec. 21 to 27, a total of 175 firecracker-related accidents were reported throughout the entire country. This chilling total is up a staggering 120 percent from the same period last year.

How can this happen, in the so-called Age of Information, when consumers and citizens are supposed to be more informed, more aware, more alert?

The answer must be, in large part, in that Gompertian deficiency of stupidity: One is stupid not because one is thus but because one acts stupidly.

It is important to emphasize that some of the victims are innocents—people who happen to be in the wrong place at the exact time a wayward bullet rediscovers the law of gravity or who are in the vicinity when an explosive device demonstrates, all over again, the continuing potency of Murphy's Law.

But many of the victims have only themselves to blame. Otherwise upright citizens, sensible people, at this time of the year they throw caution to the Siberian cold front and undertake unnecessary risks.

In many ways, risking an explosive welcome for the new year is a lot like gambling; otherwise reasonable people calculate they can beat the odds. The problem is, the risks are never worth it. Again, *as example from*: gambling is apropos: Is it ever worth it to gamble, say, one's hard-earned house? The same thing with the big-bang enthusiasts: Is it ever worth it to risk limb or, sometimes, even life itself?

The answer should be a clear "No," but stupid is as stupid does. Many believe bad things happen to other people, so even very intelligent revelry-makers act as though the risks do not apply to them (at least until they become "other people"). Others put too much faith in their vendor's claims of safety or in the alleged improvement in explosives technology.

Consider this year's namesake of choice: the "Boga," an improvised cannon using PVC pipes and repairing oil smeared alcohol. It looks safe, both easy on the eyes and easy to use. According to the DOH, however, it is already the leading cause of firecracker-related injuries this year, with 30 cases reported. (Compare these statistics with those of the usual suspects: pistols, 23; five-star, 22; whistle bomb, 15; triangle, 14.)

It is not only the users who are stupidly; the makers and the vendors can be fatally careless too. Just yesterday, a 20-year-old worker in Dagupan City died when a pile of firecrackers exploded inside his house; the explosion burned his house down and those others, and injured four neighbors. Last week, an accident involving firecrackers on sale inside a department store in Ormoc City gutted the building and killed 28 customers.

All these should be enough to convince reasonable, intelligent people to avoid explosive devices during tonight's revelry, but unfortunately, tragically, stupid is as stupid does.

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Laws and flaws

SEPARATE OPINION

Dalmacio A. Cruz

Municipal Arrays had not arbitrarily prevented the expansion of the public parties for her own benefit. Society Bolivia was allowed or encouraged to form the legislative investigation of the misuse of the P728 million Antillers fund and to come to an American jail beyond the reach of our authorities. Mayberry Gonzales concealed the identity of the parties, probably foreigners, who paid the senators for in the questionable Wackenhut contract but was only briefly punished for contempt of the Senate. In these and other cases, the applicable laws were directly evaded despite President Arroyo's constitutional duty to "ensure that the laws be faithfully executed."

Her disrespect for the Constitution was revealed by the Supreme Court in decisions that denounced her EO 1017, EO 464, and EO No. 5. Her Calibrated Preemptive Response that replaced the policy of maximum tolerance of dissidents to rallies was nullified for violation of the Bill of Rights. Her interference with valid legislative investigations was prohibited as contrary to the decision of separation of powers.

Her most disastrous defeat so far was in Lozada v. Commission on Elections which outlawed the initiatives to revise the Constitution. The chief justice himself led the majority that dismissed the petition. As the foremost leader of the law movement, she expected but did not get the support of even some justices she had appointed to the Court. The people hailed the judgment, which she gracefully accepted; more than that, she ordered her followers to cancel and suspend the nationwide move on.

Recently, however, she began forming a different issue. Not surprisingly, she is now saying she will renew the initiative because of the urgent need for it to change our form of government as the solution to our country's problems. This recalls the ugly memory of her promise before the third inauguration in 2001 that she would not run in the 2004 presidential election but she did.

The preponderant public opinion is that the change of the country's problems is not the change of the government but the change of the President. Sh do need change, but it must be for the better, not the worst. The argument that the replacement of our present government will create an instant Utopia is downright stupid; it is like pointing a rotting house to make it habitable.

It is true that the Constitution must be reexamined and improved. But we must do this without the sordid influence of politicians whose avarice for their power and embezzled spends is the root cause of our nation's decay. That outrageous flaw was recently demonstrated by the scalawags in the House of Representatives who attempted to railroad the establishment of a constitutional convention without the Senate through the illegal stratagem of their control of votes.

It is such scandalous conduct of official scoundrels that the people must guard against in the revision and improvement of our fundamental law. Without our safeguarding vigilance, the Constitution will be a note of abject surrender. We will find ourselves imprisoned once again by our own complaisance in another regime where liberty will be a fleeted word and the public welfare will be an empty excuse for private vagaries.

Meantime, let us heap coal and welcome the new 2007. May it make us, under God, happy, prosperous and free!

We are family

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT TWO CLASSmates who met each other after so many years. After the initial how-have-you-beens, their conversation focused on their families, particularly their husbands. The first one said: "At times, considering how *to* Climate has gone to the new life already)." And the second one said: "At School recess, considering how my Climate has gone to the new life already)."

* * *

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. In today's Gospel (Lk. 2, 41-52) we hear of Joseph and Mary's deep love and concern for their child Jesus. They go back together to Jerusalem to look for Him when he was lost at the temple. If only parents focus on their children and not on words on their own personal and often selfish agenda, a lot of them will still try to find each other and a lot of families will still be together.

* * *

Someone once said that the best gift a father can give to his children is to love their mother and vice-versa. If a child experiences loving parents, he or she grows up with confidence and can become a loving person and parent as well. Parents, never underestimate your tremendous influence on the lives of your children.

* * *

By the way, there is one such thing as a perfect family—or a perfect relationship, for that matter. There are only real people, with real problems, who somehow make the decision to stick in our midst each other, no matter what.

* * *

Dreams do get shattered, and relationships do get broken. What is the bottom line? If you can honestly say to yourself, and if you can say yourself saying to God when you name face to face with Him, "Lord, I have done my very best for this person, for this relationship," then be at peace. God Himself will understand, no matter what has happened in the meantime.

* * *

One of the greatest blessings in life is that I was born of healthy me and Concepcion Orbos. They were not rich, but they were generous in love and good examples. For Papa and Mama, parenthood was a God-given mission. That's why prayer life was a big part of our family. We prayed the rosary as a family every night. This taught us early on to call on the Lord, obey the Lord and not displease Him. Not only by word, but more so, by example, they taught us integrity, generosity, humility and patience. Indeed, the family is the first school of love, and parents are the very first teachers.

* * *

I think I was about 10 years old when I made a conscious decision to start respecting my parents' love for me. I saw them hard up in so many ways, and I promised myself not to give them headaches or heartaches. Life was hard enough for them. I, therefore, as I decided to make them happy and make them proud of me. That was many years ago, and I have kept my promise. After Papa died in 1997, I repeated that promise to take care of Mama, and make her happy. Unless and until a child makes a conscious decision to go into "parked" mode, then he or she never really grows up. And sooner that there are 20-year-olds who still act as though the world revolves around them, expecting the world to understand them or to bear with them.

* * *

As we face the New Year ahead of us, let us take note that the first day of the New Year is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. Let us consecrate 2007 to our Blessed Mother who assures us that she is always with us, always near us, and we are never not first.

* * *

What lies up ahead? What will happen to our families this 2007? What will happen to our country? We do not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future in His hands, and that's enough. Let us do our very best, and to God we leave the rest. For it matters, what is needed is best.

* * *

How shall we face the year ahead? Let us learn from Saint Thérèse Martinez Medel, SPD, a 94-year-old missionary priest now living in one of the remotest places in Cebu in the King Sentinels. I see him every day in the garden, tilling the soil, arranging the fallen branches, raking the dead leaves. After the recent typhoons, his garden was a mess, but he kept at it again. Now, his little garden is in order again. Sometimes he gets sick, but does not give up, and he does everything, one day at a time. He, God's grace is sufficient, and he's powered with much love and confidence, one day at a time.

* * *

Here's wishing that the New Year will be a better year for all of us in all aspects, in Jesus' name. Amen!

* * *

Please don't forget that our God is a God of surprises. Perhaps, it would be good to add "Surprise us, Lord" to our usual prayers and to expect many surprises untold before us. May we never stop believing like a child, because children are all are believing in the family of God. A happy and a better New Year to all!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind us that we are brothers and sisters, and we are family. Amen.

Helping our country in 2007

REVELLE

Ramon J. Farolan

A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, I WROTE ABOUT A brother-in-law who was just making the rounds in Silver Medical. I said about my Filipino relatives: let his country should get hold of this person, read it carefully and draw just one practical value it suggests on how to help the Philippines. All the services mentioned are presented and doable for nothing—except for time. We don't have to own your country and wait fellow countrymen. As Fr. Sidney H. Scheuer, S.J. put it: "To love our country and our people with deep passion and compassion—this is what life and death are all about."

Instead of the usual words to the bookies, Eugenio Bersin Aguinaldo, chair of the Foundation for World-wide People Power and a loyal Tito-Vilma-Ninoy-Jaime Velayo-Ambeth-and, "I had loved Ninoy Aquino since the 1960s, but it was not until the massive ripe for this book to see my house." After reading the manuscript, she made a few notes of her own about the book. Some of these actions, I believe, are worth considering:

1. Don't buy this book because you will be bothered by it.

2. Don't read it because it will change you.

3. Don't keep it because it will hold a hole in your conscience.

4. Don't give it away because it will never be returned.

* * *

Just to refresh your memory, these are the 12 little things one can do to help the nation.

1. **Balikan mabilis radio.** Why is that the most important? The answer is simple: Traffic rules are the simplest of our laws. If we learn to follow them, it will be the reward for many additional disciplines which we can develop. Here it is possible without necessary cost, it should be easy for us to comply with, and therefore should provide a good start.

2. Whenever you pay for anything, always ask for an official receipt when you buy a product, time or may not hold the tax to the government. There is no record of the sale, and the tax that you already pay may not be remitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

3. Be merchant-supplied goods. Buy local, buy Filipino. It may not be good economics in fact, 1.01 percent, local products. What I suggest is for you to take a 10-10 buying attitude. This means that any time you develop the urge to buy, you buy one of our budget for local products and the other 10 percent for imported choices.

4. When you talk to others, especially foreigners, speak in praise of one's own country. This is not to be addressed in the rich and middle class in our country who have access with the outside world. It is for who talk to, those or dear with foreigners on her term or abroad. It is when they say and do which creates the impression that we are running down our country.

5. Respect your traffic officer, policemen, soldiers and other public servants—there is nothing like the power of respect. It makes a person proud, it makes one feel honorable. At the same time, resolve to refuse to grant favors. It is a true and elegance and kindness. It is saving the value and dignity in the other man. It is, in fact, a mark of sound professional education.

6. **Do not litter. Dispose your garbage properly.** Segregate into Recycle. Conserve. In Limbo he was going on in his song: "I saw trees and green, red roses too, I saw them bloom for me and you and I think to myself, what a wonderful world."

7. **Support sports.**

8. During election, do your solemn duty. Vote, not for money, not for a material or distributor favor, to what gives credibility and credibility is something that it is needed with in the people. It is what promises the people and focuses direction. Follow a common choice, and perform a uniform act. In short, credibility is what makes people follow their leaders.

9. Pay your employees well. No custom is better for the human heart than to reach down and lift someone else up. There only defines a successful life. Not of our earthly possessions, but of how many times we have to share love and kind words to others.

10. Put your taxes in order. PhilStar was selected from individual income taxes. Don't pervert of this economic state from unlawful workers in the government and private sectors, people who had the choice, then that income taxes were withheld unjustifiably. Only 57 billion of the PhP1 billion came from businessmen and professionals like doctors, lawyers, accountants and architects, among others.

11. Adopt a child. Be a foster parent. Any child you can make a difference in the world of children.

12. Be a good parent. Teach your children to be the best and to love the country. Today's children will assume the role and lead this world. But whether they will be bad citizens or good citizens will depend largely on how we raise them today. Our future is in the heart and minds of our children.

* * *

Last year, when the bookies was just beginning to circulate, Alex was working out on the treadmill when a tennis or sports helper was using weights of various. Nonetheless and numerical differences in permissions. Today, Alex averages from four to five speaking engagements per week all over the country and even abroad. Early next year, he will be coming out with a second booklet, this one on why we should be proud to be a Filipino.

Spectacular, spectacular

MY FRIEND DAVID SEE I NOTICE A COUPLE OF MOVIES together something like twice a month. Two stop out of the cinema, we'd be talking about the general merits of the movies, and the relative extraordinariness of the lead players. By the time we get to the car, we'd be arguing about the plot, the structure, the logical chain of events—mostly about the movie's believability. And by the time we're flying down the road going home... that's when the driving begins and we make such point to makes—one argument would have rendered into a heated tirade, and it is torn up if I'm defending a theme of life and death. We'd say that dancing penguins managing to get a bill passed to protect the environment is ridiculous to begin with. And as lively.

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

Of course, David and I argue about mostly everything—being curious connoisseurs for years sort of makes screaming normal conversation. But I'm beginning to think it's not fair to subject movies to random bit of logical granddaddy of arguments. This is also why Filipino films are off, and here, real and realistic seem to be two completely different things. Realistic would mean logical, possible, an event that can be imagined probable when it comes to the human response. It's realistic to believe that getting caught means getting reformed, that getting into a fight will get you where you deserve to be. It's unrealistic the stress of tyrants and outrage men will be drained by their inclusive actions.

But in the Philippines, we defy the standards of realism. What is real to us are things that in Korea would be incredible. We gobbled up the movie's love-making penguins more comfortable. I don't know if this has always been the genre—maybe it's a Filipino trait, that love for melodrama, for great, grand gestures, and scenes out of telenovelas, or maybe it's because we only just started reading more than one comic book per month. The point is that we have become more wanting than necessary, and sometimes, I'm not even certain which a whim.

There's a concert who goes into a song, angry tracks at not being nominated for chief dancer—excuse me, not angry because, I'm sorry, the insects, homicidal, suicidal, homicidal, deflated, dejected, dejected, rejected. The singer looks at people as he blind—no one and they were going as try to reckon as dead one. I'm sure spelling queers across the country because the same was in that week.

There's a footballer who raises water into the face of another footballer, then proceeds to publicly pour a bucket of water on himself in the unconfortable to maybe he does not forgive his initial assault, and to not thinking of a reaction more unfollowed than "huh?" There are congressmen who interrupt parliamentary delight of hand, and the people who nurse at their breasts. There are people who have no problem with their weight and then nicknames that are "chubby." The wives of former tyrants happily pose on magazines looking pretty, while their children work around in Congress. There are students who throw rotten eggs and justify the act as a statement of protest—protests that man have denied long enough so they are by now, rotten.

There's a difference between fiction and reality—no regrets what fiction is many times. Reality mostly doesn't.

There are 40 million of us walking around the country today, 40 million people, each with a story, each story a great epic, each heroes and villains, and dramatic deaths, each person's life a complete film with all the requisite cast of samples. Maybe, that's why viewers all this melodrama in the news—all that grandstanding, the raised voices and accusations and that seeming tendency toward insensitive behavior—it is a desire for attention, a bid for consideration in a country where people have stopped caring, where their voices dissolve. And, maybe, we're sick of that sort of drama we—which explains why it is better and leisure making waves in the box office and in the small screen. It's more rewarding to watch Farina battling ghosts at least, there's no arguments on who the bad guys are.

There's no more other genre roughly brewing—and I don't mean the horrific numerical catastrophes that are plaguing the country this year. It may be true that the Filipino has always loved drama, but the passing is become banter by the day to make people pay attention to the various issues that affect us as a country. Corruption, it addresses, is monumental fact—today, the threat of another false doesn't even elicit nonchalance. Drama fans its audience when it doesn't seem to dramatic compared to everything else. Real voices exist and that "the public is not your friend" chestily in the Philippine Star, which is "what's what" and at the end of the year, a fresh eye, a crisp backward, and encourage to escape even the fluff from the fundamental, who knows, change may actually get done.

Tonight will be time that's five, and I wonder how any one can say the morning evening movies due to 2006. What's next? Dancing Filipino Olympics? Weightlifting ballet? Acrobats and juggling bears? Enough fun? Cancel GMA-7 at once!

There are no expected to guarantee that 2007 will mark the end of factual calls as we know it, that a cohort will come to display the end of the world. Only promises "preparations, factual and economic stability is on the horizon." If I had the money to bet, I'd make the call on armageddon.

Online astrologers offer "the most accurate predictions" with regard to love, relations and career, with a 30 percent discount for all orders made before Dec. 31.

As the last, even with the 30 percent discount, is beyond my paycheck, I'll hazard my own predictions and that is, that politicians will be swinging their hips on whatever's become near each to the campaign trail.

* * *

For comments, just save: MJ FARO1 comm; age, location, message then send to 2600 for Globe/Sun and 2600 for Smart. E-mail at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

A special hometown treat

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN THE PEBBLE BEDS WE WENT HOME TO MY mother's hometown of Balintawak. Preparation for Christmas, I would wake up on Christmas morning looking forward to a special treat.

This treat was Binungey, glutinous rice cooked inside a thick leaf container with a topping of shredded coconut cooked in sugar.

The leaf container, which is a type of banana leaf, was used for wrapping it and had to be folded in half and tied; it was a special occasion, so we would each get half a binungey. After unwrapping the leaf, we would be supposed to dip the glutinous rice, spoonful by spoonful, into the sugar.

Others, following the customary pairing of coconut and sugar, would add to the binungey other indulge chunks inside the split bamboo, sometimes big inch spoonful of ice with a bit of sugar.

Then came our Christmas meanings celebrated, with a big dinner of pancit, lechon and all that. I remember the breakfast table pulsating of a rare treat: Binungey! At those days was handmade by my special grandmother.

Binungey is a delicacy, my mother said. Binungey is definitely not cholesterol-reducing unique as Binungey, was quite difficult to make and required hours of arduous preparation and cooking. And as our aunts pounded for the users of Christmas because it was a delicacy that could be made in a matter of the rare and relatively expensive ingredients.

* * *

BUT BY THE TIME WE HAVE REACHED the publication of a book on the country's history and the family lineage, my sister Toni suggested a feature on the food of Mandaue, the Bisdas, Indonesia and delicacies that were unique to our hometown. All that we had to do was to interview my mother.

Binungey, of course, topped the list. We had all heard about the process of preparing it, but none of us had really seen how it was made. So soon after Christmas, my husband Pio and I, with my cousins Dino Gerino and Milo Labayen Jimenez, made the trip from Manila to Mandaue to visit the homestead and do some research for the book. Before that, I had talked to my cousin Nelia Gerino Sanchez, who also had to make preparations for interviews and pictorials on the various culinary specialties of the town.

When I asked her what binungey came to be, Lia said she had no idea, but that she too went for the delicacy comes from the Pangasinan word "binugey," meaning "cooked in bamboo." Binungey, it turned out, was the specialty of a single family in the municipality of Balintawak, Batangas' last town. "It's inside crooked places," said Angie Mendez, Lolo's household associate. "But it doesn't taste as good as the ones made in San Jose."

* * *

MISSING inquiries, Angie discovered that Aida Reyes, who was making Lolo's binungey for many years, was no longer with the family and was now working for another family. Angie and Aida's daughter Ana Rose, who were told that binungey cooking had not yet begun, though the men labored to bring in the leaves of the binungey maker by the name of Edwin Bandillo.

We believed the men through a chained path that was and left through a hillside, until we reached a clearing surrounded by a bamboo grove and where Lolo's binungey was being "cooking" inside and skinned of the bark, lay on the ground.

* * *

ACCORDING to one of our guides, Alfonso Pacot Jr., binungey-making starts with choosing young bamboo stalks and cutting each piece just below the node, to form a container holding round roughly one foot in length. The bamboo stalks are then laid, standing up, to be smoked by wire for two hours previously. Each container is then filled with malagkit rice which had been washed in water for two hours previously and soaked. The rice is then mixed with coconut strips mixed with cane sub over the malagkit, making sure the liquid does about half an inch over the rice. He then takes the dedicated coconuts from the bamboo and cuts off the bamboo and covers the malagkit mixture. "So make sure that no dirt or other stuff gets in."

Bandillo shavings are then laid on each side of a row of binungey, "to keep them from the more difficult part of binungey making," said Pamon, because the maker has to ensure that the fire never goes out of control. "If it's too hot, the bamboo will burst, and the rice will be in ruins. That's why we have to keep controlling the amount of kindling that goes into the fire, and the depth and intensity of the fire." Once the fire's lowest, he cannot when the binungey is ready.

When I asked if they followed any superstitious regarding binungey-making, Pamon's youngest children said: "Kailangan po ang binungey is inside and that don't buy the finished product, that's bad."

Sadly, we didn't have the time or energy to witness or record the binungey wrapping ritual. But we promised we'd buy them from Edwin's wife. Pamon at the market early the next morning. Knowing how the children's mouths that made it all the more special and tasty for us?

A long and healthful life

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

AT A CERTAIN AGE, ALMOST ALL CONVERSATIONS come sooner or later, inevitably, and health matters. The starting point would be politics, or the economy, or family—a doctor's matter. Talk in everyday drifts to the one thing we usually spend a lifetime avoiding, and a fortune desperately worrying, battling.

Most people I meet as early as 40. But normally it happens as around 50, typically in the course of a routine medical check-up. Every one, it seems, is either a victim or survivor. He told me of my unusually high DNA level. He ordered another test done after a few months, and a third one after that, which was preferably in another hospital. This stands for Prostate Specific Antigen, a blood test that indicates if a patient may be at risk for prostate cancer. I had a friend who died of it, and had known a relative suffered from the condition and a friend from TV hosting in order to accept a winning professorship at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

My doctor gave me some medicine to ease inflammation, and told me to drink a lot of water especially when I was traveling. That should be all right, he assured me. Yet I distinctly remember a nursing feeling throughout my stay in Mexico. My father died when he was 50, and I thought that it's inherited his genetic clock. I should have at least 15 more years of productive life. Now, suddenly, I felt as if I was racing on the end.

I suppose everyone goes through this middle era of denial, acceptance, and resolve. I became more conscious of what I ate. I resisted my daily drink of beer. I started to walk more. I began to worry about my blood pressure. I made sure I had my hands on. Friends suggested that I take saw and an herb called saw palmetto. My sisters in the United States sent me bottles of assorted antioxidants and stamina-rich pills. I don't know if these are working, but I'm glad to say that the PSA results finally ceased at safe levels. I've stopped eating anything else except Vitamin C and virgin coconut oil. I still drink a lot of water throughout the day, starting with a whole first thing in the morning—fresh tap water.

I'm turning 61 soon, and over the last six years, I have felt well enough to indulge my passion in the exercise. On most weekends, I ride with a group of buddies whose average age is close to mine. One I tell myself that maybe if I keep a reasonable health bill, I could look forward to riding till I am 75. I draw inspiration from the oldest in our group, who is 70 years old. Every time I see him ride a big bike I think: Why can't I do that?

My many people personally gifted to live longer? Or is a long and healthful life nothing everyone's reach? These questions have been on record in a variety of ways through the ages.

Thermistors on the bottle 1957 by the Italian writer Luigi Carlucci [1468-1536] is a famous book that deals precisely with these questions. It was an epic. Its main character, Gargantua, was a story or an autobiographical reference or feasible living. The durable life of its author became the main contributing to the validity of its claims. Carlucci lived till he was 88. I was curious about the percentages he had made to live so long, and I read until his writing up as example of strenuous thinking. I borrowed from Carlucci's Resources in the following link: http://www.infinitefreedom.org/02-2006/brighton/0206/Gargantua.html

It is a fantastic document, and I should like to write was widely known in his judgment. Carlucci and the need to a long and healthful life is quite simple and can be summarized as follows. To eat and drink only that which agrees with your body, to eat and drink only as much as your stomach can digest with ease, and to avoid extremes of whatever kind and into healthy living. Carlucci was a great believer in the control of one's appetite, and argued that the quantity of food one takes on the table after eating pressing one's life more than what one actually consumes. He said: "You should live up to the measure of your nature, which enables us to be content with little, and accustom ourselves to no more than is absolutely necessary to support life, remembering that all excesses cause disease and ready to hand."

Wrestler Douglas Cardinal, a contemporary of Carlucci, writes: "The twenty Italian gentleman sent in his die the cause of his long life, whereas the precaution for a long life—temperance in meat and drink, exercise, moderation in the cares of this temporal life." To these, he would have added: If he see more. But, Cardinal knows this. He precisely predicted that everyone should have to one's body. What agrees with one body may not agree with another. And indeed, individuals respond differently to the same kinds of food, depending on their bodily constitutions. As a matter of principle, Carlucci believed that to serve to live long and healthy one must eat and drink below one's appetite. What is good to the palate, he said, may not always agree with the stomach.

Sir Edward Sapir is a reminder of no more than 12 ounces of milk food (containing mainly of bread, soup and egg yolk) and 14 ounces of wine per day. He himself ate little of what, on the grounds of his immediately before of what, on the grounds of his family, he found to be the most delicate meals of food and water. As one gets older, he writes, one must reduce food intake because the stomach loses less and loses its heat with the passing years.

This 500-century regimen may seem quite austere and difficult to follow. But it is useful to keep it in mind especially during the holidays.

Happy New Year!

* * *

Comment to public.lives@gmail.com

THEY SAID

Amazing democracy

"You know, Ursula, an interesting comment that Gen. and (Brian) Eno once to, 'We're not winning, we're not losing.' There's been some very positive developments. And you take a step back and look at progress in Iraq, you say, well, it's amazing—constitutional democracy in the heart of the Middle East, which is a remarkable development in itself."

—President George W. Bush on talk TV war in Iraq

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Editor Juan N. Sarmiento Jr.

UP tuition increase (2)

Unknown to many, including those on the Board of Regents, implementing the higher tuition and other fees through the revised STFAP mechanism recommended by the Atanacio committee, presents many highly questionable features, which must be addressed

In-depth study, further review needed

By Roland G. Simbulan

THE BOARD OF REGENTS (BOR) simply approved on Dec. 15 a revised Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program (STFAP).

An 8-week, sudden and other hurried increasing brackets and considerable sizeable hikes (P600 will increase from P300 to up to P1,500 per unit).

Unknown to many, including those on the BOR, implementing the higher tuition and other fees through the revised STFAP mechanism recommended by the Atanacio committee, presents many highly questionable features, which must be addressed.

This is the reason it could be claimed that the BOR may not have known what it approved as it was not properly informed. The BOR simply believed the rhetoric of UP President Emerlinda Roman and her officials that the new tuition rates were good for the students, UP and the nation.

Inconsistencies

The following points highlight the many inconsistencies in the new STFAP:

1. In determining who are eligible under the STFAP, the committee starts with the premise that the students and parents of STFAP applicants conceal or underreport their income or assets. (This is written in the Atanacio report). This statement connects all applicants as cheaters to start with and that proof is required.

Because of this presumption, methods were devised to determine the true income of the family. To do this, an income function was devised (Y1 = f(x,R), + y(m), + e(i).

For details, please read Appendix A—Explaining the income function—on page 6-1 of the report by the Atanacio Committee to Review STFAP (not released even before).

What are the questionable factors of the components of the income function that must be examined further?

In Table 6.3 of the Atanacio report several asset items given multiplier coefficients to be added to get a monetary value.

For example, a television set has 0.1152248, washing machine 0.1682456, automobile 0.3288958, car 0.1858443, and airconditioner 0.7722614.

FIRST, if these coefficients are used as multipliers of the value of the assets listed above, what monetary value would they get? Washing machines and TV sets are hardly appreciated after five years.

SECOND, how did they arrive at the value of the coefficients and not its magnitude beyond this?

Relevant to the STFAP, a car has a lower multiplier coefficient than a motorbike, which is the popular vehicle among students because it provides them with mobility at a cheaper price. Using a motorbike, however, is riskier than using a car.

What so, an owner has only 0.8702214, but a VW etc. 0.1112238. It is obvious that only richer families are using cars in their homes.

Again, which sense is less wealthy (as defined in "luxuries," not given enough multiplier coefficients), leading to a lower value than actually be considered as the problem assumes.

Third, among occupational groups, a clerk has a higher multiplier coefficient (0.1112238) than a manager (0.1112238). This means that the higher-paying occupations will have lower contributions to the problematic income due to their lower multiplier coefficients.

Fourth, the social implications of using the income function

Based on STFAP data from 2003 to 2006, applying the income function used by the Atanacio committee would have included the percentage of Bracket E members from 61.62 percent to 13.16 percent based on the predicted income.

Using the reported income as basis for classification, the percentage of Bracket C remained with 20.21 percent. But when the income function was applied Bracket C became the dominant group of STFAP beneficiaries, as they were interpreted 52.57 percent.

There were more Bracket D members (27.30 percent) than Bracket E members (13.16%).

The assumption that an income function eliminates any undue biases or subjectivity in assessing the value of assets but also misses ascribed to misinformation of income is mathematically untrue.

But there could understatement STFAP applicants besides "richer" after a fraction of a reported/computer-aided calculations.

The result: They may have to pay P6,000 or P600 per unit plus full matriculation fees. But even those in the poorest group (Bracket E), because richer due to the income function. There income reported as Bracket B – from assuming to paying P600 per unit plus miscellaneous fees.

Adopting the income function the committee determine the income of STFAP applicants to determine their bracket accredited is to, creating the unbelievable notion for UP that to a UP study fixing justice to the students and not simply playing mathematics in the guise of controlling the reinstated or under-reported income and assets of the parents to collect some money in the form of tuition?

2. The maximum income in the six income brackets of STFAP brackets

Relatively of income based on the income function do not tell them. Since income components: subsidies are given nominal value, which is added to the predicted income.

The increase, though small, pushed upward the bracketing of many STFAP members as shown in the simulated STFAP data from 2003 to 2006. It is important to point that not because the final brackets of STFAP members will be determined using the outcome of the three income theories—reported, predicted and minimum. The highest will be the basis for the final STFAP bracket.

Thus, the STFAP brackets B, C, D and E seem many complications. By adopting the procedures have succeeded in decreasing STFAP-supported students from 61.62 percent to 13.16 percent using the predicted income function.

The reliability of the multipliers should be further validated and the income function be comparing the predicted income must be further refined.

How correct are the multiplier coefficients that will declare that an applicant is rich, thus making him or her not deserving of being in Bracket E? Are air-conditioning and importers' threats due to the way to compute income?

4. Shared responsibility between the student and the applicant's parent, legal guardian or spouse

The intention of having the applicant's parents, legal guardian or spouse verify the truthfulness and completeness of the information they share with, daughter, independent or spouse-had considered to change phrases, together with all the attached documents, is valid. But the statement "I authorize the university to conduct a background investigation and need a [to] disclose from to..."

For those who have nothing to hide, in the progressive easy steps, have nothing to be afraid of. But the statement is also unnecessary to surrendering one's individual privacy to UP. In some, this must be accepted.

Right to privacy

How about the rest who are aware of their rights to privacy as one of the full of rights considered to our Constitution? Does only simply be treated of allowing UP to access to look into investigations. As it is not, they may not apply for STFAP.

Automatically, they will pay P1,000 per unit. Thus, the objective of increasing UP income is damaged. Is the system taken to or misused, in this the proper way of citing funds for UP which is compromising human rights and individual privacy?

5. "Those who can afford should pay more." Those parents who can attach due to this increase is found. It is difficult to argue against this. But what is the family to cause others to be made a claim?

• Say the family with an annual income of P1,000 up to P 150,000 with enough income they shall now pay P600 per unit plus full miscellaneous fees? They are exempt from paying tuition in the previous STFAP.

• Say the families earning P150,000 a year to P1,250 a month (with enough to pay P600 per unit plus miscellaneous fees)?

Again, it should be noted that the reported annual income of P60,000 to P150,000 may increase 2 to 3 times when the income are accounted under the income function.

Simbulan is a professor and faculty regent, UP System and co-author of the UP Academic Employees Union.

Estimating the income function

BECAUSE INCOME IS OFTEN the best indicator of socioeconomic status, it is often used together with other indicators to financial assistance—making ranges a bracket's for individual's capacity to pay, to eligibility to receive a subsidy. These indicators may include individual or family characteristics closely related to the income concept, such as educational attainment, employment status, occupations and various assets owned (car, stereo, personal computer, household appliances) that may serve as substitutes for information given about income, is possible even less accurate.

By the purpose of determining the appropriate bracket of STFAP applicants, an income function is estimated from nationally representative data, National Statistics Office's Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) and Labor Force Survey (LFS). Conducted every three years, the FIES collects detailed information on the income and expenditure patterns of households. The most recent data available is as of 2003. The LFS is a quarterly survey that collects information on the characteristics and most particularly the labor market status, of each household member included in the sampled sample. Since there is a good degree of overlap in the households covered by both surveys, it is possible to match the households in both surveys according to specific variables of interest.

The income function to be estimated is specified as follows:

$Y_i = f(X) + f(z) + e_i$ where for the ith family, Y_i is current income, X is a vector of family characteristics, z is a vector of community characteristics, e_i is a random term.

Table 6.1 lists the variables to be included in the model estimation and their source. They include both resource and categorical variables. Expenditure on electricity, floor area of house, the quantity of household appliances and motor vehicles owned and region of residence are from the FIES. Household characteristics available are obtained mainly from the LFS and include the number of household members in specific age groups, occupation, number of household members by educational level completed, number of household helpers employed, and number of children in the household. The model is estimated by ordinary least squares; the results are reported in Table 6.2.

The results of the estimation shown in Table A cross them to be used to predict the income of households in STFAP applications. In be able to do this, however, it is necessary that the variables from the applicants' samples be made suited in the same way as those from the FIES and LFS.

Unfortunately, while the STFAP application forms ask questions about the occupation of parents and/or spouse, to guardian, siblings, and other household members, these are not currently required as part of the database. Instead, only an indicator of whether the parents are employed and the number of siblings that are employed are reported. Another shortcoming is that the education variable—which has been shown in various studies to have a strong effect on earnings—also lacks the refinement usually found in other surveys. The current STFAP questionnaire asks about the specific level of education and even the degree completed for every household member, but the database has information only on whether the parents, spouse, guardian and accompanying siblings finished elementary, high school, or college, but not the actual level completed. The information on educational attainment is not more detailed for employed siblings. The processed the latest collection of the national statistics for estimating the income function.

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Planned coal plant in Subic opposed

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN in the Subic Bay Freeport has opposed the construction of a 300-megawatt coal-fired power plant on the freeport's Redondo Peninsula and vowed not to trade off the environment with cheaper cost of electricity from a dirty source.

In a position paper submitted to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority on Friday, the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce (SBFCC) said the plant's operation would cause irreversible damage to the area it described as having "extremely high biodiversity values and high species endemism."

Thus, the group said, would lead to the reduced commercial potential of the freeport.

The Subic Bay Resort Association in Subic, Zambales, also joined the protest to protect the town's beach, the area's prime attraction.

John Corcoran, SBFCC president, said SBMA officials in the petitioner's cover letter that the coal plant would be the "final step in the degradation of Subic Bay, reducing the potential to attract tourists."

Dangers

"It will pollute the air, the land and the water, removing the key ingredients in Subic Bay's prime assets—clean air, clear water and the proximity to nature," Corcoran said.

SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga said the P300-million project was a joint venture of the SBMA and the Taiwanese-led Co-Generation. It would initially provide power to the former shipbuilder Dauji and eventually to the entire freeport, he said.

"It would make business more competitive. The high cost of power is one of the problems of industrial locators," said Salonga in a telephone interview.

Subic Investors, the current electricity provider, charges P9 per kilowatt-hour, he said.

Salonga, however, refuted fears of environmental degradation, saying the project would "comply with all rules."

Clean emissions?

Corcoran said the "only official beneficiaries would be Dauji and a handful of Taiwanese members in the Subic Industrial Park."

As the proponent assured in its memorandum of understanding that "all emissions will meet the regulations," the SBFCC reminded SBMA that a pollution study in 1997 showed that Subic Bay, a protected area, has fresh and clean water.

The chamber also expressed skepticism on the capability of local authorities to regulate the project.

The SBFCC recommended the use of gas-fired combined cycle technology that, it said, has nearly 90 percent thermal efficiency or more than half of what a coal plant could produce.

Opposition to coal power plants has been rooted in Pangasinan where villagers successfully blocking a plan to build a coal plant in one of the village there.

The monitoring of carbon, mercury pollution in Subic has been right following an oil slick that smudged coastlines of Olongapo City recently.

In a recent slick, plastic bags containing oil debris appeared from the 800-ton oil spill in Guimaras now found floating in the city's coastline.

The garbage bags, containing what may be used Bunker oil, appeared to have been deliberately dumped and were suspected by navers, according to Olongapo officials. Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

400 more new homes to rise for landslide victims

By Nes S. Lalaro
Inquirer Visayas

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—At least 425 more housing units intended for families displaced by the mudslide early this year in Barangay Guinsaugon in this town, will rise as a result between now and next year.

Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias said that next year, the provincial government would build 400 more housing units while the Roman Catholic Relief Team will construct 25 other houses.

Some of these houses would be constructed in the upper portion of the mountain "below the mass grave" in Barangay Magbagong, city of this town, Lerias said. The survivors of the tragedy would like to remain the same Guinsaugon site, she added.

The new permanent housing units were for relocated residents of Barangays Aguhog, Sto. Niño and Nuevo Rizal-Antiz, the 10 hapless near Barangay Guinsaugon that suffered the brunt of the landslide that buried them.

Evacuees

Aside from the Guinsaugon survivors, nearly 7,000 people from St. Bernard and other parts of the province were evacuated from their homes when rebels whom they feared as among landslide victims.

These villagers are currently residing in temporary houses at the compound of the St. Bernard central elementary school. They formed themselves into a group known as Federation of St. Bernard Landslide Survivors to remember those died in the tragedy 10 months ago.

They never have properly honored at the Christ the King Regional High School here.

The Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Gawad Kalinga, the Philippine Rebound Red Cross and the Japanese Government built these eight houses.

"It's an ongoing, continuing effort to relocate, to build schools, to have day care centers and to build new communities. Build new lives," Lerias said.

Building lives

Lerias said that in relocating people they also have to be helped in building their lives.

She disclosed that the displaced people would be provided with employment/skills training and livelihood projects such as mascots, fish drying, food preparations, vegetable farming and handicrafts.

"We really have to help them with their coping mechanisms, and are also here to help them with the means to cope," she added.

For instance, the Philippine Business for Social Progress would be implementing a livelihood project on mushrooms, in which a displaced family/each day would be provided with fish sauce, Lerias said.

On Feb. 17, 2006, a part of Mt. Basay-Hay collapsed and covered the entire village of Guinsaugon with mud and debris.

FLIGHT
A WOMAN'S dipper-list beneath blocks of concrete that were torn out of what used to be a road in the village of Bagong in Legaspi City, one of the areas worst hit by mudslides and floods at the height of Typhoon Reming in May.

Baguio faces suit for causing power outages in villages

BAGUIO CITY—OFFICIALS HERE said the city government's decision to close the Agusan diesel power plant has triggered a massive blackout around the Benguet communities hosting these facilities.

Jeffrey Moore Bulwalda Bandola Jr. said the city government should now respect calls from Barangays Mangalisan and Tadiangan in Tuba town because these villages lost power when the city took over the Asin hydro plant (Asin).

The plants were built in the 1920s, but the government leased its operations to the Baguio Water District instead in 1981. BWD sublessed the facility to the abolished Baguio Electric Development Corp. (Bedcor).

BWD's lease ended Sept. 1 but the city government allowed Bedcor to operate the facilities temporarily while it decides the plants' fate.

Barreras said he was hesitant when the city council ordered the city government to operate the plants Dec. 26 because the city has no financial and technical capacity to operate power plants.

The council, however, ironed it out how to enforce out restrictions regarding the plants' operations.

BWD had ordered to Bedcor's interim contract with the city, saying it violated bidding rules.

Acting Vice Mayor Leandro Bengot said the city has enough capacity to tap more resources in the plants.

But the mayor said the blackout appeared to have proven him right.

He said the blackout was caused by miscommunication because the city government was not informed that power distribution Benguet Electric Cooperative (Benecos) would immediately assign the four villages once Bedcor ordered off the local plants.

Power was never restored, however, because Benecos's operations were not synchronized to Ones with the shut off, Bandola said.

He said that he's also plagued by a legal issue surrounding the plants' ownership.

Barreras says the plants have leased more terms because the facilities operate outside their area of jurisdiction.

Barreras said several residents have often acted the plants' operations. He became the residences on Friday to erect a dialogue because of the fear that they may end up without New Year in the dark "unless we talk."

In Zambales, the Zambales Electric Cooperative I (Zameco I) Dec. 27 cut off power supply to government offices in the capital town of Iba due to their unpaid P3.6 million unpaid power bills.

Hit by power disruption were the police and fire stations, public market and slaughterhouse, among others. Power was put on hold in the town's rural health office.

"We have an ordinance but to enforce stiff action on the town due to the officials' failure to fund our municipal collection demands and continued refusal to settle their bills," said Iba Mayor Jun Omar. Dianne Lozada, Inquirer Northern Luzon, with a report from Grace Villa, Inquirer Central Luzon

Benguet veggie trade posts growth in sales

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE province's vegetable industry will see 2006 end with more tonnage as vegetable sales climbed to a record high at the trading post here.

Dominador Dongila, chief inspector at the vegetable trading post here, said the arrival of lettuce and market trucks from Mountain Province (MP), Ifugao and other provinces was the industry's gauge of growth.

Traffic here was usual-packed days before Christmas and New Year as trucks clogged the street leading to the trading post, police said.

But this time, Dongila said, farmers were busier with more money as vegetable prices soared when traders competed over an oversupply of vegetables that the farmers timed to be harvested for the holidays.

He said the average delivery at the trading post of 1.5 million kilograms of vegetables daily more than doubled as highland vegetables were packed and transported at steady and stable prices.

From Dec. 19 to 23 and Dec. 26 to 30, the prices of potatoes, cabbage, carrots and sayote, the province's major crops in terms of production area, were sold high, pulling the prices of other commonly traded vegetables.

The prices per kilogram were as follows: potatoes, P25-P30, carrots P7, tomatoes, and P35, rounded, sayote, P6-P8, cabbage, P35, cucumber, P30-P70, bell pepper, P120-P140, lettuce, P25-P40, celery, P25-P40, broccoli, P80, and onion leeks, P25-P30.

"For the same period, an average of 200 farmers' trucks a day queued for a space at the 9,360-square meter trading post here," Dongila said.

The Benguet Traders and Truckers Association (BTTA) also organized an assorted post in the arrival of trucks that hauled vegetables to major markets in Luzon.

Agusto Bolasoy, BTTA liaison officer, said the group recorded 377 truck trips from Dec. 19 to 23 and another 441 trips from Dec. 26 to 30, or a total of 1,115 trips for the whole period.

Bolasoy said the trips were classified according to destinations—Divisoria (300), Cubao (230) and "pasalubong" (80).

He said the provincial drivers association's Sherwin Bello, Steven Macayra, Pampanga, Cagayan, Ilocos, parts of Southern Luzon, Baguio and Mindanao.

Traffic was at its worst Dec. 26 when President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the Benguet State University here to send off 20 vegetable trucks bound for a new vegetable market along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

The police said around 600 trucks dogged the town that day and caused a three-km jam from the trading post to Baguio. Tonette Orejas-Cortina, Inquirer Northern Luzon

THE BENGUET vegetable industry helps raise this child-shoppin-near piles of sayote at the La Trinidad Trading Post

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jim Bandigan
Sunas Chief Nilo A. Alcantara

Pleasant surprises of uncharted course

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
Photos by Jerome C. Dumlao, Sarangani, Davao del Sur

IF YOU'VE STAYED ON THE POUNDED, BEATEN and abused tourist track long enough, then perhaps it's time to get off and venture into uncharted territory.

And if you want to go the extreme and veer way off your normal route, then try going to Sarangani, Davao del Sur, the country's southernmost town just a few hours away from the southern tip of Indonesia.

If you look at the map, it's the two little dots at the bottom of the big island of Mindanao. The bigger one is Balut Island, and the other is Sarangani—the two main islands of the municipality.

Be warned that the trip to Sarangani town is not for the impatient, as even hardy travelers will find the trip quite a challenge.

First, you have to take the one hour, 40-minute flight to General Santos City, board a jeepney or bus ride for the 45-minute ride to the port of Glan, Sarangani province, and then, take a dour 45-minute boat speedboat ride to Balut Island.

I must admit, albeit reluctantly, that there were times during the seemingly endless trip across the rough Sarangani Bay that I almost sailed out in the boatmen and demand to be immediately taken back to the mainland.

But there were just enough rewards along the way to encourage you to keep the faith despite the crashing of the waves against the boat, the relentless slapping of the seawater against your face and arms, and the owl's scarring face.

There is the sight of schools of flying fish seemingly trying to outrun the boat, the changing colors of the sea as the boat traveled across sandbars and coral reefs, and, of course, the lure of adventure.

Balut Island

Finally, just when my husband and I thought we can no longer take another splash of water in the face, Balut Island comes into view.

It was like a scene straight out of Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park*, with the lush vegetation, the sand covering the specs of the dormant volcano that is Balut, and the glaring lack of people. The only thing missing were the dinosaurs.

When I suggested out of the outrigger boat with legs that suddenly turned to jelly, I felt large, rounded, multi-colored pebbles instead of the usual white sand, evidence of the island's volcanic origin.

Another proof was the spring found further up the beach, with water hot enough to boil an egg or the skin of a human silly enough to dive in.

We stayed long enough to get our circulation back and to sample a coconut-based drink brought over by locals kind enough to share their wetlands with some of the very few tourists who venture to their land.

Their language was alien to me and it was later pointed out to me that they were speaking Waray, the dialect of the Waray who account for the majority of Sarangani's people.

As soon as we recovered our sea legs, we got on our trusty outrigger again and sailed for another 45 minutes to Sarangani Island, and headed over Kamfon Island.

Pleasure sight

It was there that we forgot all about the difficult trip because Kamfon Island looked like Boracay before all the tourists and the hotels came rushing in.

We had the beach with its sugary white sand almost to ourselves with just a few tenants and locals to keep us company.

We only had coconut trees and a makeshift hut for shelter, but they were more than enough to keep alive the fantasy that we were the lords of our own little island, far from the crowds and the annoying sound of a cellular phone going off.

The blessed sound of silence is only broken by the trilling of wild birds and the breaking of the waves.

The locals say the island was leased by a businessman and he intends to develop it into a resort-style tourist area.

Today, the island is only enjoyed by Sarangani people and a few visitors from the neighboring towns.

We only had less than an hour to enjoy the solitude and pay homage to God's creation and it was off to Balut Island again to prepare the meals awaited elsewhere, but not before our boatmen brought what looked like a three-kilo fish, fresh off the sea, for a handsome merienda.

History unfolds

On the way back, we stopped by Maitoring Islet to see what's left of the stone fortress put up by Lopez de Villalobos, who, in 1543, was tasked by Spain with renaming Magallan's route aside from bringing home the bounties of the fabled spices of the Moluccas.

Just a small part of one wall is left for visitors to see, but it's enough to conjure the image of the Spanish explorer having stayed there on his way to the Moluccas.

Three days, only tonight, modern-day explorers bear witness to the lonely but with the exquisite view of Balut and Sarangani Islands' waters.

Darkness has descended on the island by the time we made our way back in port.

We gingerly made our way up the giant slabs of volcanic rock to the dock and then took a short five-minute motorcycle ride to the municipal hall, which was to be our home for the night.

Sarangani Mayor Jerry Cawa, who generously turned his office into our quarters for the night, said plans are underway to put up lodging facilities in the island to encourage more tourists to visit.

Fine dining

In the meantime, we had the municipal hall to ourselves with fresh fish for dinner and Mayor Cawa for company.

It was from the mayor that we learned that Sarangani people are a happy mix of Visayan, Cebuanos, Manobos and Indonesians.

It's really not surprising considering that Sarangani is just a few hours by boat away from the northern tip of Indonesia, and Indonesians have been coming to Sarangani since the middle of the 14th century when a certain Datu Paranti took off on his balangay from Indonesia and landed in Batasgandang point, Balut island.

Since then, Indonesians have been to and out of Sarangani and their legacy is seen in the coconut trees that abound the island as Indonesians were said to have been the first to bring coconut trees to the island; the names of some of the barangays; and finally, the people.

Cawa estimated that there were more than 5,000 pure Indonesians living in Sarangani. But they consider themselves more Filipino than Indonesian considering that they were born and raised here.

It is pleasant surprises like these that make the trip for these adventurous. There were more, the locals assured us, but it was time to head for home.

And as we took our boat for the long, daunting trip back to Glan, we no longer complained about the cold and the spray from the boat hitting the rough sea at high speed.

We were strengthened by the knowledge that we dared go where very few have gone before.

BALUT ISLAND is being developed into a tourist attraction.

Awards sponsor: Subic Power Corporation

'But there were just enough rewards along the way to encourage you to keep the faith despite the crashing of the waves against the boat, the relentless slapping of the seawater against your face...'

FISHERMAN displays his catch off Balut Island.

Saddam Hussein hanged

From page A1

But Human Rights Watch criticized the executions, calling Saddam's trial "deeply flawed."

"Saddam Hussein was responsible for massive human rights violations, but that wasn't justify giving him the death penalty, which is a cruel and inhuman punishment," said Richard Dicker, director of Human Rights Watch's International Justice Program.

Relatively quiet

Baghdad was relatively quiet after the announcement, and the government did not impose a around-the-clock curfew as it did when Saddam was convicted on Nov. 5 on charges it may merge in retaliatory violence.

In Baghdad's Shiite enclave of Sadr City, some people danced and fired guns in the air to celebrate the former dictator's death. Saddam was a Sunni Muslim.

The hanging of Saddam, who was ruthless in ordering executions of his opponents, will keep other Iraqis from pursuing justice against the ousted leader.

At his death, he was in the midst of a second trial, charged with genocide and other crimes for a 1987 Al-Anfal military crackdown that killed an estimated 180,000 Kurds in northern Iraq. Deposits said the trial of his codefendants was likely to continue despite his execution.

Largest holiday

The execution was carried out around the start of Eid al-Adha, the Islamic world's largest holiday which marks the end of the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, the hajj. Many Muslims celebrate by sacrificing domestic animals, usually sheep.

Sunnis and Shiites throughout the world began observing the four-day holiday at dawn yesterday. Eid Adha's Muslim community—the country's majority—was due to start celebrating today.

"We wanted him to be executed on a special day," al-Rubaie said.

The feast marks the sacrifice the prophet Abraham was prepared to make when God ordered him to kill his son and many Muslim could regard Saddam's death as a gift from God, Arab symbolism could further anger Sunni, mostly Arab insurgents who are fighting the American troops.

The execution came 50 days after a court convicted Saddam and sentenced him to death for his role in the killings of 148 Shia by Muslims from the town of Dujail seven months tried to kill the dictator in 1982.

Appeal rejected

Iraq's highest court rejected Saddam's appeal Monday and ordered him executed within 30 days.

A US judge on Friday refused to stop Saddam's execution, rejecting a last-minute court challenge.

Al-Maliki had ordered calls that Saddam be spared, telling Iraqi state television that delaying the execution would be no favor to the victims.

"Our respect for human rights requires us to execute him, and there will be no revision or delay in carrying out the sentence," al-Maliki's office quoted him as saying during a meeting with officials before the hanging.

Many people in Iraq's Shiite majority were eager to see the execution to prevent him from being humiliated publicly or his corpse being mutilated, as has happened to previous Iraqi leaders deposed by force.

End of era

He said they didn't want anything to happen to further inflame Sunni-Shiite.

"This is the end of an era in Iraq," al-Maliki said from Doha, Qatar. "The Saudi regime ruled for 35 years. Saddam was vice president or president of Iraq during those years. For Iraqis, he will be very well remembered. Like a tsunami, he died for the sake of his country."

Iraq's death penalty was suspended by the US military after it toppled Saddam in 2003, but the new Iraqi government reinstated it two years later, saying executions would deter criminals.

Saddam's own regime used executions and extrajudicial killings as a tool of political repression, both in elimination and as suspected political opponents and to maintain a reign of terror.

Killed sons-in-law

In the months after he seized power in July 16, 1979, he had hundreds of members of his own party and army officers slain. In 1996, he ordered the slaying of two sons-in-law who had defected in Jordan but returned to Baghdad after receiving guarantees of safety.

Saddam both Iraq into one of the Arab world's most modern societies, but then plunged the country into an eight-year war with neighboring Iran that killed hundreds of thousands of people on both sides and wrecked Iraq's economy.

During that war, as part of the wider campaign against Kurds, the Iraqi military used chemical weapons against the Kurdish town of Halabja, killing 5,000 civilians.

Invaded Kuwait

The economic troubles from the Iran war led Saddam to invade Kuwait in the summer of 1990, seeking to grab its oil wealth, but a US-led coalition inflicted a stinging defeat on the Iraqi army and freed the Kuwaitis.

UN sanctions imposed over the Kuwait invasion remained in place when Saddam failed to cooperate fully in international efforts to convince that his programs for counting weapons of mass destruction had been dismantled. Iraqi, once among the region's most prosperous, were impoverished.

The final blow came when US-led troops invaded in March 2003. Saddam's regime fell quickly, but political, sectarian and criminal violence have created chaos that has undermined efforts to rebuild Iraq's ruined economy.

Personality cult

While he wielded a heavy hand to maintain control, Saddam also sought to rule public support with a personality cult that pervaded Iraqi society.

Thousands of portraits, posters, statues and murals were erected in his honor all over Iraq. He has could be seen on the sides of office buildings, schools, airports and shops and on Iraq's currency.

Despite his years, Washington's decision to hang the fallen leaders remains united in a fight to quell a endless insurgency by Saddam loyalists and a vicious sectarian conflict. AP, Reuters

ON TRIAL: Saddam and his half brother Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti (back) hear the court in the course of their trial in Baghdad, which began on Oct. 5, 2005. He was in the midst of a second trial charged with genocide and other crimes for a 1987 Al-Anfal crackdown that killed about 180,000 Kurds in northern Iraq.

IT WAS ALL OVER for Saddam Hussein in moments at the dawning of a new day in Baghdad which he dominated for 23 years. When he arrived at the execution room, photographs and video footage were taken, recounts Iraq's national security adviser.

CAPTURED by US troops 8 feet inside a hole in the ground, this unconfirmed photo reportedly shows Saddam being dragged out of his hideout on Dec. 13, 2003.

Fate of dictators . . .

From page A1

Hun Sen(-).

FAILED/FOILED:

+ IDI AMIN, Ugandan dictator from 1971 to 1979 died on Aug. 16, 2003, in Saudi Arabia, where he lived in exile without being taken for his crimes.

+ MOBUTU SESE SEKO. The former president of Zaire died of cancer on Sept. 7, 1997, just months after going into exile in Rabat, Morocco.

+ ALFREDO STROESSNER. Paraguay's military dictator from 1954 until his ouster in a 1989 coup died at the age of 93 on Aug. 16, 2006, in Brasilia.

+ PINOCHET. The genocidal former Chilean regime chief from 1973 to 1979 died of old age on April 10, 1998, as the Cambodian people, an exile in his own country.

+ FERDINAND MARCOS. Ousted in February 1986 after a 20-year rule, the Philippine dictator went into exile in Hawaii where he died on Sept. 28, 1989, at the age of 72.

EXECUTED:

+ BENITO MUSSOLINI. "Il Duce" from 1922 to 1943, he was shot by Italian partisans on April 28, 1945, while fleeing by motorboard with his mistress.

+ NICOLAE CEAUSESCU. Romanian leader for 24 years, he was executed with his wife Elena on Dec. 25, 1989, after a summary trial days after his overthrow.

+ SADDAM HUSSEIN. Iraq's former leader, deposed by a 2003 US-led military invasion, hanged on Dec. 30 for killing 148 Shiite villagers.

DYING/JUSTICE

+ AUGUSTO PINOCHET. Chile's former dictator died on Dec. 10, 2006, of a heart attack at the age of 91, still to face justice after his 17-year rule.

+ SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC. The ex-Yugoslav president died in The Hague on March 11, 2006, while on trial for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

+ MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM. On Jan. 11, 2007, Ethiopia will join exiled ex-Marxist as the former dictator living in exile in Zimbabwe since 1991.

+ CHARLES TAYLOR. Liberia's former president, charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity, is due to go on trial in The Hague in 2007.

+ JORGE RAFAEL VIDELA. Argentina lifted the former dictator's immunity in September after his 1976 amnesty from a life sentence for kidnap and crimes.

+ DIOSDADO VILLANUEVA. The former Pannonnian leader is serving 40 years in Florida for drug trafficking after the United States invaded Panama in 1989. AFP

Revelry hurts animals most

From page A1

"The sum of our pets are much more sensitive than ours. During New Year's Eve, expect your pets to be a mess that is noticeably bothered from the noise. You can plan some meals to distract out the sound of fireworks," said animal welfare advocate Dicon Liu.

Dr. Allegra Cangco of the Vets in Practice in Mandaluyong said Christmas and New Year's celebrations were indeed very stressful for animals. All animals can be stressed, especially those that are small and inherently high strung, she said.

Heart attacks

Animal experts have noted that many animals feel pain from loud sounds that are otherwise tolerable for humans. The boredom from the sound of fireworks is likewise for humans is equivalent to an explosive of a small bomb or hand grenade to dogs.

Radio reports last year said that some dogs with heart problems suffered heart attacks after being exposed to exploding fireworks.

Cangco said the noise of exploding firecrackers could indeed cause a heart attack in a dog with a heart condition.

According to James Baker, Asia Pacific director of the Brigade for the Animal Treatment of Inhumanity, fireworks generate a noise level of up to 190 decibels, which is higher than the noise from gunshots (140 decibels) and bus-ins of flying jets (120 decibels).

"Dogs are very sensitive to damage such as tinnitus and loss of hearing, starts at the 80-decibel range.

"Dogs, cats, lizards, fish and other animals who share our homes don't understand that the terrifying loud bangs are a 'sign of celebration,' he said.

"One can only imagine what they think, given how much more sensitive their hearing is than ours," he said.

Animal shelters often report that after fireworks displays they get an influx of cats and dogs lost dogs and cats, Baker said. He said dogs were brought to shelters with paws bloody from running or torn skin from tearing through a backyard wooden fence in, some, crippled from being hit by a car.

Keeping them safe

To help keep pet and other animals safe during the festivities, Peta recommends taking the following precautions:

+ Keep cats, dogs and other companion animals safely indoors during the fireworks display, and if possible, stay with them.

Do not leave animals unleashed or confined. They could end up getting hanged if they leap over a fence while trying to escape.

+ Close windows and curtains, and turn on a radio or TV to help drown out the noise.

+ Make sure your companion animal is wearing a collar and an up-to-date identification tag, just in case. Many lost animals taken to shelters have to be destroyed because shelter workers are unable to track down their guardians.

Classes set to discharge fireworks on your own property or anywhere near wild or domestic animals. If you go to someone else's home to celebrate, make sure their animals are safely inside and away from all fireworks, too.

Solution

Animal lover Tin Tin ting, who has adopted a stray cat and 13 dogs—one of which she saved from a vehicular accident and one from a dog stealer—has had her dog Scotter sickened and nonetheless in the hours. Scotter's dysfunction was done to the street where neighbors would be lighting firecrackers during the revelry.

As early as Christmas Eve, animal lover Rommel Lukas already disclosed his two dogs inside his house.

In the Pinoy Animal lover group, a member has suggested giving pets herbal relaxants on New Year's Eve.

The suggestion and responsibility for Animals (Cats), an animal rescue group that currently houses 35 dogs and over 50 cats, is protecting its wards with herbal relaxants, according to Cara coordinator Alex Novato.

According to Cangco, doses of the herbal relaxants capsule are out as early as Christmas, although the powder and liquid forms are still available. Some of the brand names are Calm Dog, K-9 Medicine Ghost, Calm Bird, and Dog Calm.

She said herbal relaxant medications are good for mild cases of stress and anxiety and should be given at least three days before the eve of New Year. Doing so later than that would require caution and tranquilizers which have to be administered by a veterinarian.

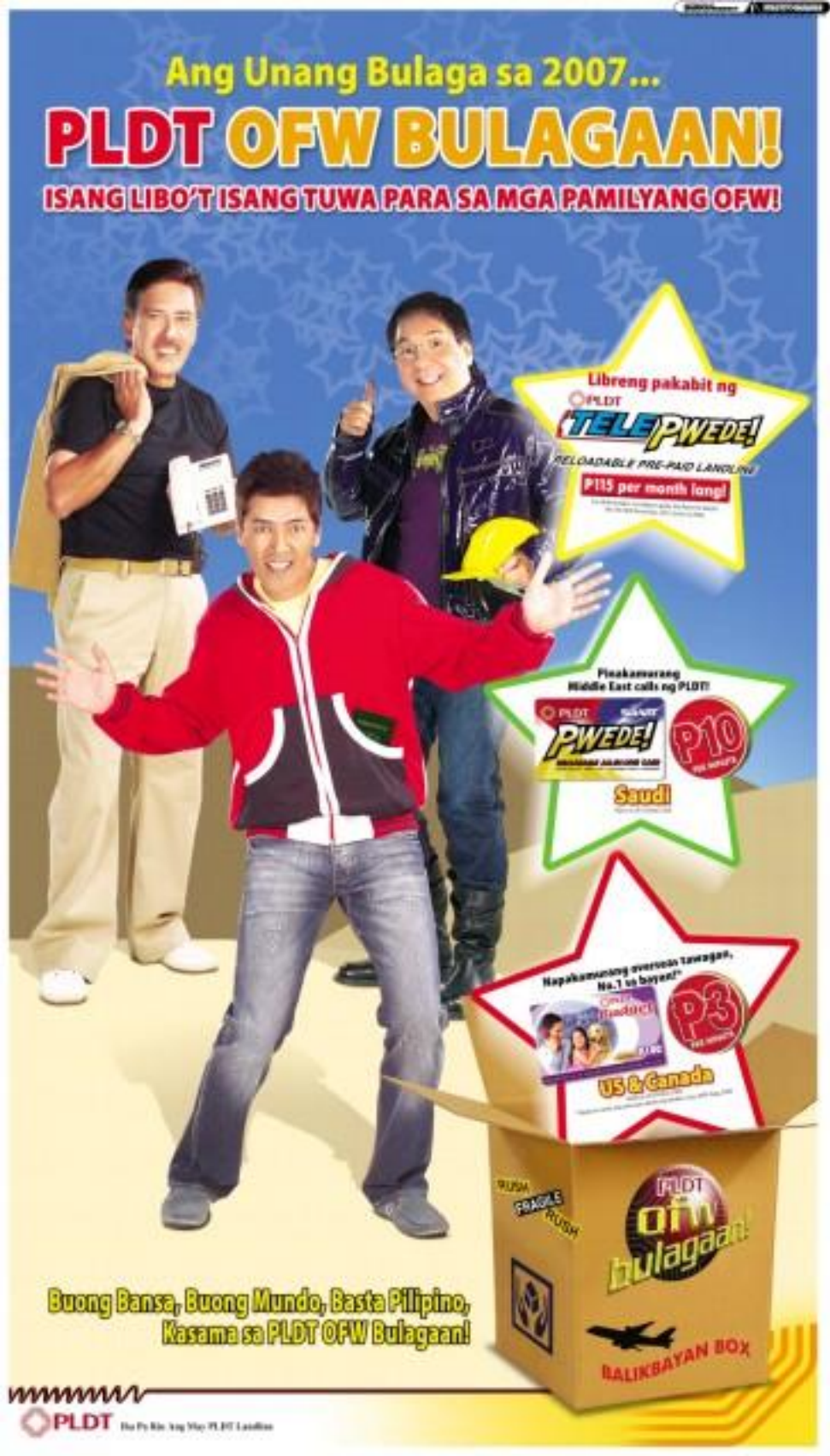
Aromatherapy

For mild cases of stress, Cangco said she uses supplements and Lavender aromatherapy.

Supplements can cost anywhere from P500 to P1,000, but costs and tranquilizers depend on the weight of the animals. For average-sized dogs (10 to 12 kg in the Philippines), sedation could range from P300 to P500.

For those who can't afford to buy the drugs, Cangco advises that pets be kept in confined areas with music or in air-conditioned rooms. Spray the room with lavender-scented air freshener. One can also burn lavender oil.

"In aromatherapy, anything that's lavender-based will be good," said Cangco.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The gift of smile (and hope)

A 25-year-old medical mission provides more than surgery and dental care

A VOLUNTEER doctor manages to get a tough cut of his young patient.

By Rose Marjen Alonso
Contributor

A TOTURO girl seems to be reassuring her younger sibling who is set to undergo reconstructive surgery.

FOUR-MONTH-OLD JAYMOND was crying and kicking on a bed in a ward of the Capitol eg Makati.

He was hungry and uncomfortable with an intravenous needle wedging out of his tiny hand. His young parents watched with mixed emotions as a volunteer nurse gently pinned him up to take him to the operating room where a senior volunteer surgeon was preparing to repair the baby's cleft lip.

In a little less than two hours, Jaymond's face and life had changed for the better.

This was what Operation Smile—the world's largest private, non-for-profit volunteer medical services organization—had set out to do on its first medical mission 25 years ago.

Free surgery

Operation Smile provides free reconstructive surgery and essential health care to indigent children and young adults with cleft lips, palates and other serious facial deformities in the United States and developing countries.

It was founded in 1982 by American plastic surgeon Dr. William P. Magee and his wife Kathy, a nurse and social worker, shortly after returning from medical mission in Nagpo City.

The couple was not part of the original team. The two replaced volunteers who could not make the trip.

On this latest mission at the Makati hospital, the mood was calm and light despite the number of parents and children waiting anxiously.

Tense situation

"Please open your mouth," urged team leader Dr. Acot Arcasa, tilting the face of Brian, a patient with a cleft palate. Brian obeyed but shut his eyes tightly and clenched his fists.

"He stopped going to school because his classmates teased him, for being nganga," his mother explained. Dr. Arcasa asked Brian with a grin, "If I fix the way you talk, will you promise to go back to school and get good grades?" Brian's eyes lit up as he nodded, making the deal.

The volunteer doctors, who come from the country's top hospitals, feel it is only right to help make a difference in a child's life.

Dr. Susan Dance has been a volunteer for seven years. On a busy morning recently, inside the operating room, the anesthesiologist was calming the fears of a 3-year-old boy who had just woken up from general anesthesia, his cleft lip repaired.

"It's finished. Mommy and Daddy are waiting for you," she assured the frightened and dazed child.

Solemn oath

"When I became a doctor, the oath I made was not to harm my patients and do my best to make them better," Dance told the forseven.

"Volunteer or charity work isn't part of that oath. I do it because I want to help and to thank the Lord for the good life I have. The peace and indescribable sense of fulfillment is a gift (operation) finds and in many patients have given me," she added.

Older patients are administered only local anesthesia. They are not put to sleep completely.

A nurse ushered in 14-year-old Rosalie who was covering her mouth with her hand to hide a cleft lip with a protruding tooth. Dr. Mark Heras saw that she was trembling as soon screamed down her face.

"Don't be scared, the operation won't hurt. If you feel any pain, just tell me and I'll put more anesthesia," he promised.

Humor for relaxation

Without looking at the doctor, Rosalie agreed and lay down but she still would not relax. "How many boyfriends do you have?" Dr. Heras asked playfully. "None," was the quiet reply.

"How many husbands do you have then?" he joked. "After this surgery, you'll have a line of suitors waiting outside your house."

Rosalie giggled and was gone by.

The volunteers are not all doctors. There are speech pathologists, dentists, retired nurses, parents and ordinary citizens who wear their operation Smile pins with pride.

To them, a gentle touch and the many other immeasurable acts of humanity they do for the mission ways borne from inspiration and dedication. One does feel the overseeing spirit that weaves from within each of them.

DOCTORS concentrate on their task.

ANOTHER volunteer doctor explains the procedure for surgery to an anxious mother.

New Year's Eve a special day for Munti inmates

By Jocelyn R. Uy

BABEL, A MURDER CONVICT detained at the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City has everything planned for today's New Year's Eve revelry.

Inside the kitchen of the chapel located in the maximum security compound, a small refrigerator has been stocked with exotic exotic staples like ham, queso de bola, ube and fruit salad for dessert.

Babel said he would like to spend the morning to prepare the meals for the priests and other visitors who would be coming in later in the day—a chance he has always looked forward to every year.

In between his chores, he plans to attend Mass with his brother and sisters and share a simple meal at the newly-built "maximum facility" (nearest) just a few meters from the compound's main entrance.

If he has enough time, Babel said he might ask his siblings to join him at the multipurpose hall next to the mini park, where dinner has been organized by inmates and their visitors.

When the clock strikes at midnight, he said he would find a comfortable spot in the compound where he could view the fireworks set off by people in a nearby neighborhood. At the same time, inmates would bang on pots and pans as if to send off the bad energies in their cramped cells.

"Even if we are jailed, we also make plans for New Year's Eve and look forward to new days ahead," Babel said.

Good things may come in trickles to a drunker place like the jail, but prisoners at the NBP have learned to banish despair and draw hope from the little delights that can be found inside the prison.

Fr. Roberto Olaguer, head of the NBP chaplain, said the inmates, most of whom he has befriended, "always hope for the best because they have seen the worst. They search for meaning in everything."

Babel has been inside the max-

NEW YEAR'S EVE | A 18

Take pictures, please

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A POLICE OFFICIAL YESTERDAY called on the public to use their cell phones to good use by taking pictures of civilians firing their guns indiscriminately on New Year's Eve.

Chief Supt. Roberto Tenalez, director of the Southern Police District, said that the police have failed to go after errant gun owners for lack of evidence.

"If the public would be able to provide us with photos or videos of cases of indiscriminate firing, we are confident that the cases filed against these erring civilians will hold water in court," he said.

Tenalez led police chiefs on Friday in taping shut the muzzles of guns owned by an estimated 2,700 policemen.

"Policemen should not feel ashamed about this. This will help prove that maximum of indiscriminate firing don't come from us," the police official said.

Officials of the Philippine National Police earlier warned policemen against firing their guns on New Year's Eve, saying that they face dismissal from the service as well as administrative charges.

Fort Boni's strictly (street) dancing 'master'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT IS A CRUISE CLASS MORNING and a mall of cars seems to sound on an intersection at Fort Bonifacio (Global City) in Taguig City, leaving blaring a tempting beat.

The show is about to begin for 37-year-old Noel Quiñones.

In a blue hat, black boots and a yellow vest, Quiñones starts his post in time for the early morning rush hour, this rather than the usual hand signals, he executes slick dance steps right in the middle of McKinley Parkway and the Fifth Avenue—his regular stage.

Although his moves look choreographed, the "dancing traffic enforcer" said he does not memorize his dance steps. "I just listen to my heart and the music in my mind and dance spontaneously while I direct traffic. I want to make the drivers smile," he told the reporter.

Quiñones, a marine engineering graduate from Pagsildan City, Luzon (Del Sur, has been on the job for two years now, after seven years of trying his luck in several corporate jobs. But in Laguna, there is More to Manila.

He first set foot in Manila in 1996 when he took the board examinations, hoping that he would pass so that he could work abroad and send his children to school.

But his plans did not push through when he failed the licensure examination twice. He was compelled to take on a succession of construction jobs for several years to support his growing brood.

In 2002, he saw a "wanted" sign hanging on the door of the Bonifacio Security Services Inc. while roaming the environs of Fort Bonifacio looking for an extra job. There was a reason to that hunch then, with high-rise condominiums and commercial buildings going up in the prime real estate land, recalled Quiñones.

"I decided to take a chance, even if the job was new to me. The employment in the Security Services broke out in laughter when I opened my bag to get my resume and they saw hammers, nails and a saw," he said.

Personal touch

After a few months of training with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and city traffic enforcement unit, Quiñones learned the ropes and even put on a personal touch to his new job.

Rain or shine, customers plying the Fort Bonifacio intersection—with its magnificent steel skyscrapers looming in the background—would get a glimpse of Quiñones, swinging his arms and twisting his body in time to the music only he can hear.

As if to show that he was in tune with the times, Quiñones said he would play the music of Bamboo (a Filipino rock band) or Pussycat Dolls (an American all-female singing group) to the mood of his company his dance steps.

Motorists—most of them foreigners, residents from nearby posh condominiums and students attending international schools in the area—would give him loud and little gifts, or honk their horn to show their appreciation at the sight of Quiñones.

But his job is not as easy as it looks, he said. Sometimes, he would wake up mornings with sharp pains in his knees after standing for 12 hours, save for an hour of break from his work.

Nerve-wracking

It can also be nerve-wracking to witness horrible accidents, he said. One day, during his first few days on the job, a motorcycle hit a stolen island near the intersection, and his driver dropped to the pavement a few meters away. The mishap left him trembling, but he still rushed to help the victim, he recalled.

DANCE master Noel Quiñones performs on his stage—the intersection of a street in Global City, Taguig.

As a boy, helping out his father till the land back in his hometown came before attending to anything else. He often came to school smelling like a carabao, Quiñones added. During his college days, he always brought with him packets of sugar-coated peanuts he would sell to his classmates, for late or lunch money.

Despite the temptations on the road, he said he finds it easy to refuse "donations" that would have made his life a wee bit more comfortable.

"Sometimes, motorists who have committed road violations would try to bribe me to avoid getting a ticket. But I turn them down in a respectful way. I refuse to do so because that's one how I was raised," he added.

Educating drivers

There are a few other things that fellow traffic enforcers could learn from him. "The traffic violation tickets that I hold don't mean penalties—they are tag drivers. To me, it's one way of educating them because sometimes they don't know why they were given a ticket," he said.

Quiñones added that it is always good to smile at passing motorists, even the more-unpersuasive.

But it was still best to dance for them, he said. According to him, it is good to be a source of joy in the otherwise chaotic world of traffic jams and road rage.

"I JUST listen to my heart and the music in my mind and dance spontaneously while I direct traffic."

Thieves get watchmen drunk, then rob store

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THREE ROBBERS TREATED TWO caretakers in a drinking spree on Friday night before breaking into and looting the store they were guarding in Marikina City.

Police Inspector Eugenio, 48, came back from a barbecue at around the same time Moises Ermanio, 49, awoke up on Saturday morning, they found out that the caretaking duty were supposed to be watching had already lost pieces of jewelry.

Imaginative plan

Policemen said that this was the first time they heard of a robbery plan so imaginative as this one.

It was not known how much the robbers managed to cart away but Eugenio said the robbers rummaged in forcibly open several drawers filled with pieces of jewelry inside the pawnshop.

Investigation chief Insp. Jose Salazar told the reporters that they were already verifying the identities of the suspects who had rented the store next to the pawnshop a few days earlier.

One of them told the owner of the one of stores that his name was David Valdez.

The robbers entered the vacant store next to the BMC Sanglimo on G.H. Street in Barangay Concepcion Uno last week, even making an initial payment of P50,000.

The robbers told the store owner they would be setting up a furniture shop.

The suspects showed up again at the store on Friday night, telling the caretakers they would just be cleaning the room they were renting.

Drinking bout

They also told the caretakers they had just received their holiday bonus and invited them to a drinking bout.

"We did not get suspicious because we knew they were residing in the same compound," Eugenio said in Filipino.

The robbers and the caretakers were seen exchanging stories over bottles of beer in a session for near the pawnshop, where the caretakers usually stay.

Residents were awakened by falling asleep but the robbers apparently noticed. Eugenio was 300 yet too drunk by then, police also described.

Six minutes later, one of the suspects invited Eugenio and barker Herbie Villavicencio to continue their merrymaking in a townhouse several kilometers away from the pawnshop, leaving Hernaiz, who was already drunk, in the company of the two other robbers.

The robber also left Eugenio and Villavicencio in the townhouse, saying he would return after attending to some important matters.

The robber even gave Eugenio P1,000 for their bill but he never came back.

When Eugenio and Villavicencio returned to the pawnshop at about 12:30 a.m. yesterday, they found that the steel windows of the pawnshop had been destroyed.

New Year's Eve . . .

From page A-17

insane compound for 13 years, but he has been trying to make every day an extraordinary one by doing simple things that he "can't unless I'm granted when he was still a free man.

Inside the jail, he sings in the church choir and cooks meals for prisons, roam and students who drop by the prison to do volunteer work.

As Eduardo Matos, one of the soldiers convicted in the Aquino-Galman double murder case, he has found meaning in his service to the church and by being a member of the "PIC"— the Personal Social Group which is known to receive visitors from religious organizations and other VIPs.

"Of course, it's also because of my family that I have not lost hope after being incarcerated for 24 years now," he said.

Julius Medalla, 35, who was named a life sentence for murder in 2002, recommended those things that help prisoners look forward to the future with enthusiasm. The Antillo and relatives who visit them regularly, the informal education inside the jail made available by the Bureau of Corrections and the support of the church and nongovernment agencies who do volunteer work.

"The educational training is most important to those inmates who have been abandoned by their families or whose relatives have moved on them because they live far away. The new skills they learn from the informal school give them something to look forward to," he said.

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to 2300 (Globe) or 1811 (Smart)

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whenever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Pinoys, Muslims party in Arab country

They show Christmas' meaning, what interfaith is all about

By Nikko Dizon

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES—At the St. Mary's Catholic Church across a mosque in this Dubai, an access to the financial capital of this progressive Arab nation, Filipinos attend midnight Mass to prepare for the birth of Christ.

It's not unusual, too, to receive gifts from Muslim friends or for Filipinos to devote spare their dinner to companionship for hours.

For the thousands of Filipinos living and working in open cities in the Middle East like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, the UAE capital, and Muscat in Oman, Christmas is the time for discovering what interfaith is all about and celebrating the season as one Filipino community.

"We celebrate Christmas here like we do in the Philippines," Jong David, a hotel manager in Dubai, told the Inquirer.

And, in a heart-warming gesture, David said that his Muslim friends join in the Christmas tradition of gift giving. So much so that David and many other Filipinos also give their Muslim friends some presents on Islamic holidays like Eid al-Adha, which marks the end of the Muslims' pilgrimage in the holy city of Mecca.

Give and take

"It's give and take," Maricar Isaac Limbawan said. "We both have to enjoy, take and respect our respective faiths. During Ramadhan, for example, we don't hold festive parties in deference to their fasting."

Malls in these open cities are adorned with Christmas trimmings and will holiday dinners and gifts as early as November.

But because it is obviously only for commercial purposes, it would be quite difficult to capture the essence of the season, said Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine Embassy consul in Abu Dhabi.

"That's why we appreciate the efforts of Arab leaders who support the idea of interfaith," she said.

David said that the St. Mary's Church is packed with Filipinos attending the midnight Mass, which is actually held earlier at 9:30 p.m.

Throughout these semi-days, you will see everybody smiling at each other.

"It's funny because we look like people possessed," David said. "Right long song ngeti. Mahabaal lahat. Mungos ang atmosphere."

Because they live in an open city, David said they could have the usual Noche Buena fare that they usually have in the Philippines.

They have hurt, choose

"We have ham and queso de bola," David said.

"We can drink wine unlike in Kuwait. We even have San Miguel beer here. It's great that all the food we have in Manila is available here."

Added Villaberrosa: "Kalipunan ng ilang oumis ang mag-celebrate ng Pasko. We make it a point to celebrate the way we do in the Philippines so that we won't feel so far away from home during this time."

Some Filipinos find themselves lucky enough to have Muslim employers who allow them to take the day off on Christmas Day or at least give them half the day free.

For those who have to go to work, they make up by going to the parties with their compatriots and Christians of other nationalities.

With their families back in the Philippines, Filipinos spend Christmas as one community.

Community leaders, for one, make it a point to invite fellow Filipinos, especially those who had just arrived from the Philippines and those who are living alone to join in the parties.

"Christmas can be a really emotional time for us because you will think of home," Villaberrosa said.

She considers herself luckier than most because her parents and siblings live with her in Muscat.

David said that when the clock strikes 12 on Dec. 25, expect many party guests to turn zombies.

"The drama starts," David said.

A number would cry, like herself when she first celebrated Christmas seven years ago, alone and away from her family in Manila.

Many would try to call their families in the Philippines at midnight, hoping to greet everybody back home a Merry Christmas but calls could be unanswered because it is simply the hour when the lines become clogged with calls.

"After ano ay maririnig mo ang hiyaw: 'Kung pwede lang hindi malayo sa pamilya,'" David said.

PHILIPPINE Ambassador to United Arab Emirates Libran Cabacrahan (center, in suit) hosts a pre-Christmas dinner for "Kamanakan" artists, among them Nanette Inventor, Ava Mira, Ogie Alcasid, right in his house in Abu Dhabi.

No celebration in Lebanon; they feel luckier than 'Reming' victims

By Nikko Dizon

THEY HAVE GONE THROUGH A WAR AND are now living amid renewed political tensions, but Filipinos in Lebanon are still able to think beyond their own plight.

The Filipino community decided to forego with their usual holiday celebrations in deference to the sufferings of their fellowmen who were victims of the recent typhoons in Bicol, said Fr. Agustin Advincula, parish priest at the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal in Beirut.

The Catholic Church was the temporary shelter of thousands of Filipino workers, mostly domestic helpers, who fled the war between Israel and the Hezbollah last August.

"Actually, the recent calamities and disasters in our country and the ongoing tensions have been inspired us to simplify our activities and how we celebrate," Agustin told the Inquirer in an e-mail message.

The Filipino community was actually already preparing for a "bongga" celebration, Agustin said, as early as September.

But by late October, Typhoon "Milenyo" brought destruction to Rizal, Manila and several provinces. In November, a Lebanese Cabinet official was assassinated, which heightened the political tensions there.

"Oh yes things are bold," Agustin said. Still ultimately, the community decided to abolish the foreign-style holiday celebrations.

"And we were glad we did, after what Typhoon 'Reming' and 'Yoming' did to the Bikol Region," he said.

Day of prayers

They celebrated Christmas in the only Christian-dominated nation in the Middle East in the most austere way.

There were no parties, raffle draws, singing contests, said Agustin. There wasn't even a parol or a Belen in their homes.

They also did not hold their annual "Day of Gratitude," where employers are invited to join the Mass recognizing their part in the lives of the Filipino workers and are given gifts by their Filipino helpers.

But pray they did.

"We continued with our Simbang Gabi, at 5 a.m. and 5 p.m., and the midnight Masses for Christmas and New Year and the gift-giving for the children," he said, adding:

"We spent a day fasting and praying. He sometimes Sundays is the 3-o'clock silent prayer for an hour for nine days before Christmas."

There calls to heaven were all for the victims of the calamities in the Philippines, for the peaceful resolution of the ongoing tensions, and for the hostages—who have escaped from their employers and are still "languishing in our embassy and the government deportation center."

"We didn't have the chance to raise funds for the typhoon victims," Agustin said. "Bear in mind that we had to scrap our raffle draw which could have been the source of funds."

"Besides, the volatile situation made us tighten our belts and prepare for eventualities," the priest added.

Agustin said that despite the war, the Filipino community there still had "bahon" than the typhoon victims.

"We experienced the bombings at a distance though we heard the sound and felt the tremor. Whereas these typhoon victims were struggling to save their lives in the middle of a cascading mudslide," Agustin said.

Of the estimated 30,000 Filipinos in Lebanon, nearly half were back to the Philippines to escape the war.

But a number of Filipino workers have made their way back to Lebanon, despite an existing employment ban, Agustin said.

"These are the Pinays who are receiving good salaries and are enjoying the favor of their employers," Agustin explained.

These returned to Lebanese nationals were the first ones to be allowed back, he added.

Getting their lives back to normal is a continuing struggle for the Filipino community. It doesn't sound wise when they say that peace is all they want for the New Year.

ADVINCULA: His pray-ers rise.

Papa, please come home next Christmas

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD JEROME "Jerome" Caluza wanted nothing in the world than to have his papa by his side this Christmas season. His father, Jerwin, 44, has been working in an electronics store in Saudi Arabia for more than 20 years now and has since spent only one Christmas together with his family.

Jerome said that if ever he was made to see only one person on Christmas, he would choose his papa, not Santa Claus. "I love my papa so much and I hope he'll have this there (in Saudi) this holiday," he continued.

Every Christmas, Jerome never asked his parents for presents. All he wanted was to spend the holidays with his dad to complete their family.

No recollection

Youngest of three, Jerome virtually grew up without his father's presence and had no clear recollection of him because Jerome was only 8 months old when he went to work in 1999, eight before Christmas. So papa had to leave to work again in Saudi Arabia.

Now in first grade at the San Diego Elementary School in San Pablo City, Laguna, Jerome loves Mathematics and has been a constant topnotcher in his class since kindergarten.

"It is my parent's hard work, especially my dad's, that inspires me," Jerome told the Inquirer. "I know how hard my father is working abroad and I want to make him proud of me someday so I can help my family."

Many times, the family would have no money for Noche Buena as Christmas Eve due to delays with the remittances or the money sent by Jerome's father isn't enough. "The money we receive for our Noche Buena, we send to pay off our debts," Jerome said.

It's a good thing Jerome and his two siblings, Daniel Junior, 15, and Nedria, 12, were raised by their mother so not to expect that their father was making a fortune abroad.

JEROME, 7, wishes he would see his father Daniel (inset) every Christmas in and his father celebrated their first one and only Christmas together last year.

Jerome said he's used to not having new clothes, shoes or toys on Christmas and it's okay with him. "What we do is call papa and talk to him over the phone on Christmas," Jerome added, happy that even though his father is not here physically, he can always feel his father's love for them.

Wish granted

Last year, Jerome's wish to spend Christmas with his father was granted. His father came home a couple of weeks before Christmas day.

Jerome remembered jumping happily to their home when his father called to tell them the good news. At last, he would see his father in person when he initially got to know only by phone, pictures and letters.

"My siblings and I were all very excited," Jerome said, adding that his confident was the his papa is active.

The day his father arrived, only his mother, Alice, went to the airport to fetch Daniel as they did not have enough money for all of them to pick him up. "I even borrowed the money I used to get to the airport," Alice said during an interview.

Waiting at their house, Jerome and his siblings were restless and could hardly contain themselves with the thought of seeing their father after a long absence. Jerome had the general cleaning in their house to make it as clean as possible for their papa.

Together at last

When his parents arrived from the airport, Jerome immediately ran to his father and hugged him. "I ran to him and said 'I love you, papa,'" Jerome recalled, teary-eyed after missing his father so much and being able to hug him for the first time.

After they hugged and exchanged greetings, his father handed each one of them special gifts. Jerome received a black leather jacket from Saudi which he immediately tried on and found to be a perfect fit. His mother got a lipstick while his two siblings got their own leather jackets as well.

"I know they were not the most expensive gifts, but they came from papa so I love my jacket very much," Jerome remarked, saying the item is now his favorite apparel and always tries to wear it whenever possible, even when the weather is not cold as it reminds him of his papa.

On the first date in their lives, the family was together on Christmas Eve. "Noche Buena has never tasted better. Christmas is so much happier when papa is around," Jerome said, referring to last year's Christmas.

"We wanted to give something back to our papa so we offered a thanksgiving Mass in his name (the next day)," Jerome recalled as it was just yesterday.

Later that Christmas day, they organized their own version of Christmas party complete with games and a raffle draw. "Papa loves to sing. He was so happy, he sang all day," Jerome said. In-genius, they videoed some of their relatives and gave their Christmas greetings.

As March the year, Daniel had to leave for work again in Saudi. And, once more, Jerome and his family celebrated the holidays without the man of the house.

"It's okay. I understand why he's not here right now. I just hope that we get to celebrate Christmas together again next year," Jerome said.

The WORLD

Edna Lawrence B. Cuaso

Saddam's execution lauded, condemned

PARIS—THE UNITED STATES JOINED ITS arch foe Iran on Saturday in hailing the justice of Saddam Hussein's execution, but European powers opposed the use of capital punishment even though they condemned the former dictator's crimes in Iraq.

US President George W. Bush said Saddam had received the kind of justice he denied his victims.

Some key US allies expressed discomfort at the execution. And Russia, which opposed the March 20, 2003 invasion to oust the dictator, and the Vatican expressed regret at the hanging which some Muslim leaders said would exacerbate the violence in Iraq.

The Vatican saw the hanging as "tragic news," Vatican spokesperson Federico Lombardi said. "There is a risk that it feeds the spirit of vengeance and places the seeds for fresh violence," he said.

Bush called the executions "an important step toward" on the road to "building an Iraqi democracy though he warned in a statement it would not end the deadly violence there.

Iran, the influential neighbor of Iraq and arch foe of the US administration, also welcomed the execution.

"With regards to Saddam's execution, the Iraqi people are the interested ones, as they were victimized when Saddam fell," said Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hamid Reza Asefi.

Israel, a strong US ally and enemy of Saddam, also hailed the hanging. "Justice has been done," a high-ranking Israeli official told AFP.

Britain, the main US ally in Iraq, said Saddam Hussein had been "held to account" but reiterated its opposition to the use of the death penalty, as did Australia, another key supporter of the US invasion.

Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said: "No matter what one might think about the death penalty, and the government of Iraq is aware of the Australian government's position on capital punishment, we must also respect the right of sovereign states to pass judgement relating to crimes committed against their people, within their jurisdictions."

But there was also condemnation of the execution.

Russia's foreign ministry expressed regret, saying that international calls for clemency had been ignored.

"Unfortunately, the many appeals from representatives of various countries and international organizations for Iraq's authorities to hold back from capital punishment were not heard," a ministry spokesperson was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

India also condemned the execution. "We had already expressed the hope the execution would not be carried out. We are disappointed that it has been," said foreign minister Pranab Mukherjee in a statement.

The ruling Hamas movement in the Palestinian territories called the execution of Saddam a "political assassination."

Libya declared three days of national mourning after the execution, with official media also calling Saddam a "prisoner of war." Mubarak, current chair of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, warned the execution of Saddam could trigger more bloodshed.

"A lot of people, the international community generally, are not in favor of the hanging and question the due process that took place," Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar told AFP.

Outside of Bahrain, European reaction, with official media also calling Saddam a "prisoner of war,"

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres E-mail: p_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Text on your handset: Inquirer sports news straight to your mobile. Type <SPORTS> and send to 2900. (Globe) or 2800 (Smart)

WHAT'S INSIDE
Kobe's 58 still fails LA /A22
Out of shape, King Tiger skips PGA season opener in Hawaii /A22

BARRERA REMATCH

Manny given until Monday to accept offer

A DAY AFTER OFFERING Manny Pacquiao a tempting 50-50 purse split, Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer has given the Filipino boxing superstar only until Monday to either accept or reject a proposed fight with world super featherweight champion Marco Antonio Barrera.

"Pay-per-view deadline here so to impose a deadline of Monday (Tuesday in HK, Jan. 1, for Team) Pacquiao to either accept or decline our offer," Schaefer said in the website Boxingtalk.

Schaefer, however, clarified that he does not wish to negotiate with both sides, as the latter "has not given us his right to Manny Pacquiao."

Arum is top honcho of Top Rank which struck a deal with Pacquiao on Thursday to hold and promote the Filipino's next few fights. On top of this agreement is a $1 million purse that Arum promised Pacquiao for his rematch with Barrera.

Schaefer said he expects Pacquiao and his team to understand that if the proposed fight goes to purse bid, the split would be 75-25 in favor of Barrera, who holds the World Boxing Council belt.

Arum, who flew into the country last Dec. 26, had earlier offered Barrera a $2.5 million purse to face Pacquiao on April 28 in Las Vegas.

At a hastily arranged press conference last Thursday at the Manila Hotel, Pacquiao also announced that he had chosen Arum as his promoter for the next four years.

The Filipino ring icon's decision to stick it out with Arum did not sit too well with his American trainer Freddie Roach and manager Shelly Finkel.

Both had tried to convince Pacquiao to break up with Golden Boy Promotions of promoter-boxer Oscar De La Hoya amidst unsolved contract hang-ups early.

Following the press conference, Schaefer announced GBP's own package, including the 50-50 split with Pacman.

Arum said Schaefer's statement is a way of spreading the negotiation process, although the latter maintained that GBP does not wish to negotiate with him.

"Our offer was not intended as a negotiation, but to present a fair and lucrative offer to make this fight a reality," Schaefer said.

Schaefer proposed to hold the Pacquiao-Barrera fight on March 17 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

The GBP top honcho also emphasized that they are willing to deposit into an escrow account all promotional expenses that will be due Pacquiao, until such time that the court decides who is the legal promoter for the Filipino.

"If the Court should rule the case he gets the money and if he does not, he doesn't deserve it," Schaefer said. Inquirer, Lagumbay, contributor

GOLDEN OFFER: Manny Pacquiao "has last say." —AP

Gabica-De Luna bows to Taiwanese tandem

THE FILIPINO PAIR OF DORA ABAN Games gold medalist Antonio Gabica and Jeffrey de Luna bowed to Chinese Taipei's Wu Chia-ching and Yang Cheng-shun, 7-3, Saturday and missed the finals of 2006 Mizuno Gerard Elias Cup International Eurasia doubles at the Crowd Nine Billiard Hall in Tokyo.

Gabica and De Luna will play the South Koreans, which lost to the Japanese, 8-0, also Saturday, for third place.

The Japanese pair of Isamu Araki (champion Koichiko Takahashi and 17-year-old Hayato Hijikata, the 2005 world junior runner-up, topped the Korean tandem of Jeong Young-hwa and Kim Hyung-chu.

The Taiwanese duo of Wu, the former World Pool champion, and Yang outlasted the kill in the 11th rack of the best-to-10 showdown.

The winner between the hosts Japanese and the heavily favored Taiwanese will pocket the 1-million yen (about $8,400) champion's purse.

The runner-up pair in the four-nation international tournament gets 600,000 yen, the third placer 400,000 yen, and the fourth placer 300,000 yen.

In an interesting battle between 17-year-olds that served as appetizer for the tournament, Hidekazu Ono, 9-7, Marlon Bernardino, contributor

LOST PAIR: Gabica (left) and De Luna

Even 'His Airness' couldn't win this game

CHICAGO—MICHAEL ... JOR... dan and his wife, Juanita, announced Friday after 17 years of marriage.

Michael and Juanita Jordan mutually and amicably decided to end their 17 years marriage," the couple said in a statement issued through their attorneys. "A judgment for dissolution of their marriage was entered today. There will be no further statements."

Michael Jordan's lawyer, Frederick J. Sperling, declined to comment.

The court documents filed Friday with the Lake County Circuit Court, the couple said "irreconcilable differences have caused an irretrievable breakdown of the marriage." The couple said attempts to "resolve the issues have been unsuccessful" and said it is "in the best interests of the family."

Juanita Jordan previously filed for divorce in January 2002, but withdrew her petition a month later when the couple announced a reconciliation.

The couple were at a Chicago restaurant during his second season with the Bulls when Juanita moved Sept. 2, 1989, as Los Angeles Times staff writer Elaine Dutka reported at the time.

Michael Jordan's lawyer, Frederick J. Sperling, declined to comment.

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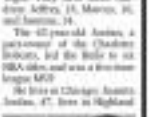

MICHAEL and Juanita in happier times

AP

TRIPLE OVERTIME LOSS

Kobe's 58 still fails LA

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA—KOBE Bryant poured in a season-high 58 points, but it wasn't enough to stop the Charlotte Bobcats from pouncing for a triple-overtime victory over his Lakers on Friday.

Charlotte's Sidney Okiloo was able to dominate the paint, and Matt Carroll scored a career-high 27 points off the bench as Charlotte ultimately downed the Lakers, 123-124, in a wild second basketball game in overtime.

Okiloo had 22 points and a franchise-record 28 rebounds for the Bobcats, who picked up a victory in the first triple-overtime game in club history in front of the largest crowd ever to see a game in Charlotte.

Bryant shot 22-of-46 from the field and 12-of-12 from the line to record the second-highest scoring performance in the NBA this season. Washington guard Gilbert Arenas scored 60 points against the Lakers on Dec. 17.

However, in the third-overtime session, Bryant committed one of the costliest sins of defense.

With his team trailing by two points with 1:14 left, he fouled reserve David Anderson, who was attempting a 3-pointer.

Anderson sunk all three foul shots to make it 123-124, and Los Angeles was unable to get any closer.

On the ensuing possession, Bryant fouled out, committing a charge on a wild drive to the basket but leaving with the third-highest scoring point of his career.

Last night, Bryant scored a franchise-record 16 points against Toronto and 62 points in a game against Dallas.

In Washington, Gilbert Arenas scored 34 of his 56 points in the decisive fourth quarter to lift the Washington Wizards to a 122-111 victory over Orlando.

It marked the 12th time this month Arenas has reached the 30-point plateau. A new franchise record.

Arenas, who was playing with his family for the first time since Feb. 6, 2002, when they also were together in Orlando, had 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards, who picked up a victory in the first triple-overtime game in club history in front of the largest crowd ever to see a game in Charlotte.

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BRYANT scores over Okafor

AP

All-Star, he entered Friday's matchup averaging 31 points per game in 16 contests.

The triumph gave the Wizards their first five-game winning streak since Feb. 6-12, when they also strung five in a row.

With the game tied at 106 with 44 seconds remaining, Lucas Bradley drained a baseline jumper and Antawn Jamison made free throws to give the Wizards a four-point lead.

But Steve Dooling hit a 3-pointer with three seconds left to pull the Magic within 112-111. Orlando had a chance to win after Bradley missed a pair of foul shots, but Dooling muscled from the right wing to steer rebound.

In Portland, with the injured Damian Wade and Shaquille O'Neal watching from the bench, the Heat lineup Heat rolled to a 31-14 win over the Shell.

In Milwaukee, LeBron James, who will celebrate his 22nd birthday on Saturday, poured in 32 points and Drew Gooden added a season-best 29 as the Cavaliers powered to a 109-99 win over Milwaukee.

In Detroit, Detroit demonstrated early point of the game over a big Indiana Pacers to a 97-92 win over the Detroit Pistons.

Reuters, AFP

Standings Friday results

Orlando 102, Toronto 87; Washington 112, Atlanta 111; Charlotte 123, Milwaukee 99; Indiana 97, Detroit 92; Miami 92, Boston 83; New Jersey 96, Memphis 89; Seattle 112, Minnesota 111; Houston 96, Denver 91; Phoenix 110, Golden State 104; Portland 31, Seattle 14

NBA on TV

Saturday (December 17), Seattle 3 a.m.—Miami vs. Houston (update: 11 a.m. 3 p.m.)

Yao to get injury update

HOUSTON—YAO JINMING PLANS to meet with doctors next week to get an update on how his injured right knee is healing.

Yao told ESPN.TV in Houston on Friday that he hopes to have a better prognosis than the one doctors initially provided—that he would be out of action until early February.

The Rockets center fractured the right tibial plateau under his knee Dec. 23 when he jumped to block a shot and his knee got caught under Tim Duncan's body. He immediately grabbed his knee and screamed in pain. Yao was managing 20 points and nine rebounds before the injury.

"It's really hard," he said. "This is the best year I have ever had for my team and for me personally."

AP

Out of shape, King Tiger skips PGA season opener in Hawaii

KAHALA, HAWAII—TIGER WOODS DECIDED Friday to skip the season-opening Mercedes-Benz Championship, missing the PGA Tour's "tune-ups to golf" and larger issue surrounding off-course distractions that have plagued him.

Woods, who was skiing with his family last week in Colorado, said he did not have time to get his game ready and wanted to spend more time with his family.

He has won six consecutive PGA Tour events and a career-high nine overall, including last year's Mercedes-Benz Championship,

COMFORT: Last game

PBL: Bittersweet departures, stirring victories

By Jeannine W. Poyo

BITTERSWEET DEPARTURES AND STIRRING comebacks marked this year's PBL era.

Wilcon Pistols, one of the most successful teams in the amateur ranks, bid farewell to the league last June.

A perennial finalist, Wilcon moved to the pro league after capturing six championships in 10 years.

Taking over Wilcon's franchise was Bonded Slam, a brand of none-stand bonded sealant.

"The transition left lasting bitter strong," PBL commissioner Chito Trinidad said of Bonded Slam, the league leader in the summer Silver Cup. "We lost the traditional summer spectaculars in winning championships, but it opened more opportunities for newer teams."

Pelicans hoped for a grand exit, but could only muster a third place finish in the season-ending Unity Cup.

In another heartfelt farewell, Montalla guard Mon Compton played his last game in the league, which honored him with a Role Model Award.

The special tribute stole the grand-American "for being a gentleman on the court and a great individual off the court."

"Even if my basketball career here has ended, I've experienced and learned a lot in the Philippines," a teary-eyed Compton said in Filipino after his impressive four-year stint in the league.

But the PBL shared hope with the emergence of new teams and young stars.

In a championship run that no one predicted, Harbour Centre bagged the Unity Cup crown to become the lowest-seeded team to win the PBL title.

The Port Masters, bannered by La Salente and Joseph Yeo, outclassed the Toyota Otis Spinks in a decisive Finals series, 3-1.

It was a steep climb to the top for the multi-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE A-32)

So falls short, but Sadorra gains IM norm

GRANDEST PRIZE: Ronnie Alcano lifts the World Pool Championship cup at the PICC.

BILLIARDS YEARENDER

RP cue masters rule the world

By Inquirer Sports Staff and Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

EVEN WITH A GALAXY OF POOL STARS IN ITS disposal, the Philippines could find your 2006 hard to top.

Nikki Ronnie Alcano scores highs as tied as a global force in the game with a slit stamp in the Manila Pool Championship, Filipinos were at the forefront of almost every big international event in the year about to pass.

Ronnie Gubina won the 9-ball gold and this 8-ball silver medal in the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, and the Philippines' foremost bests—Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante—continued to confirm in as many title tournaments around the world.

Moreover, though, "boy business" Lucio and Rubilen Amit hope soon hop in the line Miguel Anton 9-Ball Tour to join the four as the Philippines completed its ascent as the world's top pool power—hands down.

Alcano's achievement

But none of those accomplishments could come close to the achievement of Alcano, who came from literally the end of the pack to defeat the methodical Germany Ralf Souquet, 17-11, in a World Pool Finals rematched by a throng of his countrymen at the Philippine International Convention Center.

After winning just one match in the double-elimination phase, Alcano bundled out Spain—the highest and most feared local hope—in the second round before taking out Chinese Taipei's Wu Chia-ching, the defending champion, in the quarterfinals.

It was a victory that formed the like—again—of the country's passion for what used to be known as a boy-boy man's sport, and it gave the Philippines its third world champion after Reyes (1994 in Cardiff, Wales) and Alex Pagulayan, the 2004 winner in Hamburg.

'Best player that ever lived'

In August, Reyes and Bustamante topped the two-pistol World Cup of Pool doubles by demolishing the tandem of Earl "The Pearl" Strickland and Rodney "Rocky" Morris of the United States, 13-5, in the finals at pocket-the top prize of $60,000 in South Wales, Britain.

Two months later, Nica, organized by Gus poon as the "best player that ever lived," topped the International Pool Tour World Open 8-Ball Championship to claim the $100,000 prize, the richest purse on billiards history.

At the US Open in September, Lucio lost to American Johr Schmidt in the final round to settle for runner-up honors and the $125,000 purse. He also placed second in the Derby City 9-Ball, unbeaten that came before he bagged the fundraising leg of the 2006 SMB Asian Tour.

The Lukanis and Efe Del Mundo stopped on Filipino while the Bangkok leg was won by Gallego.

Dangerous players

Alfren de Leon, meanwhile, sustained his run, bagging the 9-ball silver behind Gubina after losing, 7-11, in the gold medal match in the Doha Asiad.

There were others—Marlon Manalo, Landy Valle, Pagulayan and Dennis Orcollo—who failed to win one jar title but are still regarded as dangerous players in the division.

Certainly, with the abundance of such talents, there's no way to look for up for RP pool next year.

Pacquiao's superstitious side

IN HUDDLE

Abeth Cañiz

IT'S EASY TO IMAGINE THAT SOMEONE as highly physical as Manny Pacquiao would be very spiritual too.

It was therefore a big revelation when the aspect of Pacman's career became evident in a 15-minute chat during an exclusive dinner hosted by Solar Sports Instructor Wilfredo and Wilma Tieng at the Hyatt Hotel last Thursday.

Actually, I was only eager to hear the truth straight from the horse's mouth. It's about a superstitious practice that Pacquiao claims he needs to follow.

After my brief cohabitation came out, a colleague trained to enhance me that Manny flew to Manila on Sunday to rehearse for his concert. That meant he had slept for only three straight nights in his cave house in Gen. Santos City. The superstition in question requires that the denizen of a new house sleep there for five straight nights to ensure that he and his family do not subvert bad luck.

Was he able to sleep there for five nights? I also asked the beating man if there's really such a superstition.

Manny who had approached our table on the request of Bell de Leon, a staff member in the Manny Pacquiao Promotions, answered yes to both queries.

"I flew to Manila on Dec. 11, after I had completed the required five straight nights," Pacquiao said in Filipino. "I wouldn't dare risk ignoring this practice because as such had died in the past because he failed to observe the same superstition in the house."

Bell remarked that Dennis was indeed very superstitious. And religious, too.

He always preached to his staff, according to Bell, the merit of good versus evil.

I could get a taste of this that evening, as Manny and his future duty he was scheduled to fight Jorge "El Terrible" Morales for the third and final time.

"I was sick that day and really felt weak. I was running a 39-degree fever and my body was trying to vomit all the contaminated of a respiratory infection. Because of my condition, I knew that there was every possibility that I could lose. But I couldn't ask for a postponement, so I prayed fervently before the fight.

"I told to my brother, 'Lord, kung sa ang buhaba ay akin (take my life)' I said. But every so I said this, I felt drained of energy."

Inside the ring, while dancing in the first round, Manny said he was trying to get a feel of his condition.

"Nang unang sumbak, ang kalaro ko, gusto na gulat ako. Ang lakas! In this day, hindi ko ma-explain how I got that energy. Siguro, I am only unable it is Him, through my prayer."

Manny believes his prayers are being answered because he has found the right way to do it.

"Mirror (Iyon) nagkasuot' ngo nang matamotin, straight from the heart, kaya lang, dumidiretso nilang dagan ang hinihingi nila. Ang the moment, nagkasuot'ngo para sa hihingi, wala na akon. Ang pinagsabi ko, nagkasuot' nang matamotin, from the bottom of my heart, at hindi nagkakamot sa damning ang hinihing. Ang damning nagpanlimot ako nang matamotin, kung hindi natotal, okay lang."

A devotee of the Black Nazarene, Manny had the shorts he wore in his last fight (loaned by the priest at the Quiapo Church before it was brought to the United States.

He said he has realized his path following an illuminating dream he had several years ago.

"Dreaming that time kasi, parang nalilipat sa ang hotel-hotel, nahihirat nako sa banyo. One night, I dreamed that I was inside a tote hotel. It was very dark, seven, I was by myself. Suddenly a very brilliant ray of light (Nawa) through the door and bathed me. Then I heard a booming voice. Sabi niya, 'Boob, huh it tumayo ka at alive?' When I woke up, I was crying and crouching profusely. My pillow, my bed sheet were wide wet. I was drenched.

Since that profound experience, Manny said he has realized with the Lord. He said he hopes everybody prays the way he does so that their prayers would be answered too.

For the new year 2007, Manny has no pressured goals.

"Ang wish at dasal ko ay para sa lahat. Sana huwarat ang bahay ng lahat, sana wala nang naghirap," he said.

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres

MILO JUNIOR CUP TENNIS

Fiery Japanese put away 3 titles

JAPANESE FIGURE TO DOMINATE GAMES OUT A KITTY 6-0, 7-5, 10-3 VICTORY over compatriot Shohei Endo yesterday to capture the boys' 16-under crown at the close of Fun Elite Junior Tennis Cup at the Philsen Homes Tennis Club in Quezon City.

Tournament, one of eight players representing Ryojo Tennis Club of Japan, showed the limelight with teammate Arisa Murakami who captured the girls' 14-under championship at the expense of another Japanese, Ayako Iwasaki, 6-4, 6-1.

In a third all-Japan title showdown, Jun Onishi downed Jiro Ochiai 6, 5-4, 6-3, to bag the boys' 14-under title in the yesterday Milo tournament organized by CNN, supported by Prince tennis equipment and sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association.

Underscoring the dominance of the visitors, Iwasakura and Onoki will also dispute the boys' 10-under crowns.

But the multi-bracket international championships was definitely not an all-Japanese show.

Titico Mark Tolentino of Tabaco, Quezon, upset top-seed Mark Bacares, 7-6, 6-2, to par away the unisex 10-under crown while Dhea Talamisol, a member of the Philippine age-group squad that campaigned recently in Malaysia, outlasted Cebu City's Aurelyn Lapitan, 6-4, 2-6, 10-12, to take the boys' 12-under title.

Mirsion Capulsoto of Antipolo outdueled Gabrielle Paulino of Olongapo City, 9-4, 4-6, 10-7, to top the girls' 12-under division.

Mike Ignacio executive for Geo-org CEW tennis director Joey Monserrat and Jaime Piel's Piano Bar scholars awarded the trophies and medals to the winners.

Real Spicy puts unbeaten streak on line

By Manny R. Castillo

TOP HORSE REAL SPICY WILL shoot for all the marbles when he starts out in the fourth in the Philracom Classic Quezon Cup at Santa Ana Park in Makati City.

The handsome chestnut puts an unbeaten streak on the line as the 2-year-colt is making its first start of the season, and will be shouldering some four pounds less than last year—when he was crowned top 3-year-old colt after he dragged it all in 10 races.

There's also another P1.8 million in prize money to be won, which could jack up the super horse's career total past the P5-million mark and nowhere to Phil Jaffna or his cronies.

And more importantly, a win in the race could erase 2,000 worries over whether Real Spicy's sick or the prestigious Horse of the Year award.

"I feel like a father awaiting the birth of a child," owner Bruno Lopez said of the hoopla on the eve of the big race. "I always get nervous before each big race."

Louie E. Ballesteros, the young and energetic rider, will steer the offspring of Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale, in place of Jessie B. Guce, as they clash one with seven others, including defending champion Wild Drifter, the top-calibre stopper who won the last to dead-beat Spicy as debut.

Now, for milestones. Which child takes the test first (the shortening to the mile) to reach for the Star Lotto Arabian Park will be a race of 2 minutes and 0.1 seconds (not 2,000 lashes).

And to see the first time per Real Spicy going for his first win last time returning to action in late February.

Among the race viewers are the Fun Gandionco's Silver Cup, the Hotel Cupcake Manila, the Diabetic Classic and the Breakfast Gold Cup.

Empire King, the former Gold Cup winner who will be skippered by Allan Cordero, is again tipped as the biggest threat to golden wills couple Jacquie's Best Man Kent and Jo Young as he handles Fe Jonathan Hernandez and Elmer Salvador, respectively.

Diamond is a dark horse. The three-year-old chestnut mare will be piloted by Butz Dilema.

And Silvercache's Wild Orchid, who is battling a slight sore leg problem of late.

Fun Queen, Empire King's couple, will be handled by Lord Iquino, while Glen and Lorenzo, with owners Marcelino Empuis, rounds out the field.

REAL Spicy wins to cap a beautiful year with a victory today in the Philracom Classic Cup.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Bill Shaw golf comes off the wraps Jan. 25

THE BILL SHAW MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC, the much-awaited tournament held in honor of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club founder William J. Shaw, tees off Jan. 25 to 27 at the Manila golfing country.

The organizing committee, headed by club president Benjamin S. Abalos and sports and games committee chair Pablo Ferro, are preparing the staging of the three-day tournament, seven in 1,855 addicts and open to the first 120 two-man teams—a club member and a guest partner or a member and a non-club member.

Members' guests rules have certified handicap indices issued either by the Information Philippines, or the National Golf Association of the Philippines, on or in the tournament deadline for the submission of names is Jan. 21.

Wack Wack lady players may also compete but their handicaps will be adjusted or converted accordingly because they will use the men's blue tees. Each lady will be allowed to have a male partner, provided he is not a member of the club.

Matchplaying teams will be classified into four groups, namely: Groups I, II, III and seniors. The handicap index of each team will be determined by dividing by one-hole sum of the 70 percent of the aggregate and cumulative handicap combined. The team with the lowest net score wins.

The entry fee is P7,000, inclusive of a pair of golf shoes and a P3,000 worth of gift certificates.

Guests can play their fun practice round on any of these dates: Jan. 1, 4, 10, 11 and 28.

METRO

Citizen's Call

Our City of Affections and Disaffections is made up of stories.
Your stories. Tell us all about it.

- Did a signage make your day?
- Garbage dumped on your street unmake your day?
- Street digging forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up in arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Awed by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and fisting neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

Tell, text or shoot it. With photos, if you will. Share the good news where you are—and the bad, being invoked in the safe way to make Metro Manila a safer, more humane and an exciting place to live in.

JUST TEXT title and message/location <message>
MMS: <insert photo> and message/location <caption/message>

0918-8985566

P.S. Please don't send this as criminal activities are under that plan.

INQUIRER

Santillan moves on to regain OPBF crown for third time

FORMER ORIENTAL AND PACIFIC BOXING Federation (OPBF) welterweight champion Joel Santillan figures in a four-up bout against Japanese Hisato Kinoguji on Feb. 12 in the Archie Moll in Inagawajuku, Japan, before the planned coach in his old title.

Santillan lost out the OPBF title he split decision against Hiroshi Yamaguchi last April 20 in Tokyo.

An immediate Santillan Pasaguin rematch was being worked out, but the Japanese opted to defend his title once before facing the very durable Santillan.

To keep busy, Santillan will fight Kinoguji, a 25-year-old southpaw from Osaka who holds a 15-2-3 win-loss-draw record with 2 KOs.

Santillan (22-3-1, 14 KOs), of Cebu City, first won the OPBF title via a split decision over South Korean Suh Hyun-joo in 2001, defended it three times, before losing the title in a disputed fashion to Hiroshi Watanabe in Jan. 2002.

He regained the title in Oct. 2003. Pentacube race years later, he knocked it once, before losing the rematch once again to southpaw Japanese, Kunichiro Shibata, in 2005 on a fourth-round knockout defeat.

SANTILLAN

In the rematch, Santillan dropped Shibata in the eighth round of what was billed as "OPBF Fight of the Year" by 2005, before bringing to Inagawajuku in his last fight. Salvacion L. Lagumbay, contributor

Coach E five tops FBL caging

THE COACH E SQUAD EDWARD ST. MARY'S College, 35-17, to win the Fence Basketball League (FBL) 8-20 division title at the Blue Eagle Gym recently.

Coach E, sponsored by Tenley Styling and Rubber Enrollment, was the first club team to win the championship in the school-dominated tournament.

Styling's squad is made up of Ricoberto Abe, Jeremiah Villanueva, Sandro Perez, Jonemer Mayuga, Enzo Abarrillas, Jose Bernardino, Gilbert Pimentel, Coco Ledesma, Rupa Llanglagan, Don Alarcon Gomez, Don Manuel Gomez, Miguel Ramirez, Colin Salas, Santiago Salas, Andrew Sison and Vhan Sobrejuela.

The players are all graduates of the Grade 12 school's preseason and scholastic basketball competition.

The clinic will be offered more starting Jan. 17 at (individually in Libis, Quezon City. The Zone in Makati, Club Makeup in Quezon City, San Beda College in Alabang and Xavier School.

For inquiries, log on to the philfbl-boo.com or www.fblphil.net.

SJC Int'l Derby stakes P6M

THE MANAGEMENT OF USA 2,000 CELEBRATION announced yesterday that P6 million worth-richer thoroughbred in the upcoming SJC International Derby, slated Jan. 21, 24 and 28 and sponsored by Singapore Cocoplus a 2000. The quarterfield will be contested following positive feedback from local and international participants, said racing manager Pete Rivera. "We are calling up that of least 100 runners with six horses already confirmed. All participants are already here now, adding them to 16 percent of early proceeds. The same format was used in 2003 that also attracted 100 runners. Meanwhile, Silver Horse topped the first Centennial Century Invitational Derby Preliminary (SCIP) 5 Grade Derby last Thursday, after his stablemate Jeffy posted 4.5 points. He used in the SJC Centennial Club 4-week derby on Jan. 3.

SPORTSWATCH

'Breaker' 6-rocker slated

THE 3RD NATIONAL FEATHERWEIGHT BOXING biggest derby contest shifts the Las Piñas Coliseum on Jan. 4 after the holding of the PBA All-Star Games. 4-rock Derby Derby contests and head Jam Dixon said the derby has a P1,000 Dixon-endorsed Bloodthirsty of Las Piñas, Rony Herrera, Mayor Glenn Aguilar, Bobby Flores, Edwin Lee, Philbert Caezo Montero, Ronnie Tilos, 9. Flores, Pablo Perez, PCNationals, Bobby Dimmick, Jessie Arnold, Boy Marin, among others. Entries must be submitted at Rimbawan by noon 29 Jan. and now the tournament will be held on Jan. 4 at 10:00 a.m. Meanwhile, the first 20 winners in 127 Cowgirl backflights will receive a P1,000 bonus each, said coliseum manager Abe Tolosa.

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Sunday BIZ
Business Features Editor Margie Quirque-Espino

FOJI JURVES SALTAN is considered as one of the best AFPSLAI entrepreneurs for making his anthurium trade blossom.

Policeman takes time to raise the flowers

Man in uniform augments pay with money from anthuriums

Text & photos by Dolmar Carlos
Inquirer Northern Luzon

KABUGAO, Benguet—A policeman from this mountain town holds his colleagues in awe.

No, not because of his heroic acts in the call of duty. But because his wonderfully colorful shiny red and heart-shaped flowers called anthuriums.

Juggling responsibilities

PO2 Jurves Saltan of Barangay Pinyak juggles his time between his soldier's call of duty and tending his anthurium farm.

Saltan started raising anthuriums as a sideline in 2003 and the modest income from his garden proved that one need not be a flower nor be wed a genie (Saudi) to become a successful anthurium farmer.

Today Saltan, 31, earns P30 per dozen of anthuriums. And with harvest of 100 to 120 dozens a month, his salary as a policeman has been augmented.

His anthuriums are exclusively brought in the flower stalls in Dangwana flower center in Mankayan in Benguet province.

Saltan, who has a three-month-old son with wife Gemma, joined the Philippine National Police in September 1996 after he quit an education course at Ifugao Benguet State University in Barangay Bulalakao here.

He was assigned to the Cordillera police's regional mobile group and went to Baguio and Ilocandia rooms in Benguet, and Rizal-town in Mt. Province.

He was installed with the PNP here in 2000 after he was promoted to Police Officer 2. It was a homecoming for him since he was born in Barangay Tabio-an here.

He got interested in anthuriums after he attending an anthurium raising seminar held by the Department of Agriculture to the town's peace and order council members.

He also saw how anthuriums were raised in seven sub-villages (sitios) of the town that served as his inspiration. These sub-villages—Tanang in Barangay Bulong Bulo, Liwang and Padlongan in Barangay Sagpilet, Lamsigan and Gopyaw in Barangay Gaddang and Tapdac and Tadiangan in Barangay Pinkong—were once the hotbed of insurgency here.

AFPSLAI loan

He then applied for a loan of P70,000 from the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association Inc. (AFPSLAI) whose cooperative mission is to promote responsible loan management among soldiers and policemen.

Saltan said his borrowed capital is for 3,000 anthurium seedlings and planted them on a 600-sqm. lot in Barangay Pinyak here owned by his father-in-law.

Now, the lot is home to 21,500 anthurium plants and Saltan is about to expand his farm to another 400 sqm lot in the same village.

On Dec. 1, Saltan was named the PNP's most outstanding member and entrepreneur of the year by top AFPSLAI officials in Camp Aguinaldo.

He topped a field of 12 nominees nationwide and emerged winner when the five finalists were chosen. He received a cash prize of P50,000.

The other awardees were SPO2 Eduardo Magkasay of Zamboanga del Sur (hog and sell of agriculture products), EPO4 Francisco Tabio of Ormoc City (production and retail of coconut wine), SPO1 Abdullah Hisham of Zamboanga City (fishery and beach resort) and Sgt. Gildegardo Angelo of Catanauan, Northern Samar (bakery).

Saltan says anthurium raising is a very fulfilling source of additional income. It does not need a big capital to start with. The flowers grow easily and they do not require chemical sprays and commercial fertilizer to grow robust.

"All you need is a little compost of dried leaves and rice stalks and the anthuriums would not complain," he says.

Easy to harvest

He says a farm based would suffice since the flowers are easy to harvest and transport, compared to vegetables that are usually bruised and dependent on costly farm inputs.

"You don't also have to worry about pests as long as your garden has a net," he says.

But the most important, he says, is that there is a steady and strong demand for anthuriums in the market.

"If one has a wide farm, he could earn triple what the regular government employee earns," he says.

For poverty-stricken lives looking for a ray of sunshine

By Dulsa Flor-Pl. de los Santos
Contributor

"IT ALL HIT ME AT A GOOD-LOOKING couple, happy together at work, at home and at leisure. Through a trained video network, their slippers have 'walked for'—reaching Cagayan, Camarines Norte, Occidental Mindoro, Samar and Leyte. And even Shanghai."

That bridge story from the family tradition of marching to try our business after another, until he set up a handmade paper making enterprise. He then pampered his Papel Hecho Feliz from a business that initially did not have buyers into one that has begun to export.

"Luz is the youngest of five children here's to a copra worker and a housewife in Barangay. Her life is worse further when she lost her mother at age 12. Today, Luz is a picture of contentment. Her family lives a good life."

"These are not the protagonists of a best-selling fiction. They are real people, four of the "Dream Makers," Risk-takers" featured in the "Micros that Roared!"—the third volume of articles on successful entrepreneurs published jointly by the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation, Inc (SERDEF) and the University of the Philippines Institute for Small Scale Industries (UP ISSI). Written in clear and simple language by writers of UP ISSI, the 160-page book captures the drama of 25 less-than heroic individuals—their poverty, lack of skills, family disapproval, personal tragedies—to craft decent lives for themselves and their families through micro businesses such as slipper making, fish vending, soap-making, native delicacies, peanuts, food processing, to name a few. The successful is the narrative style that the reader gets personally involved in the ups and downs and the twists and turns of the fortunes of the featured personalities.

A SOURCE of inspiration for entrepreneurs

From pain to pain

The reader travels with the entrepreneurs from pain to pain (suffered because of attacks in the family, fire or business losses), from failed ventures to victories, small and big (such as discovery of new recipe, opening new markets, increase in volume of sales or acquisition of new property), from rejection (because of poverty) to redemption (when the business succeeds, an entrepreneur forgives those who scrimped her, an arrogant fish vendor finds her "humor self" after suffering humiliation).

The reader is inspired to step out of his comfort zone and from zero to hero, from zero to a zero of abundance.

He readily is impressed about circumstances and environment familiar to Filipino readers, from Mindanao, Visayas and Luzon, and spiced with vernacular terms, the stories deliver a theme that strikes home and lifts the spirit of every Filipino reader, rich or poor.

Power in hands

The book resonates with the strong message that there is power in our hands to tear down the limitations of the elements of our nature and nurture, provided we take responsibility for our lives and have the courage to break down the barriers that keep us from what we want to become.

For accomplishing these virtues, these entrepreneurs did not only earn profits but also won awards from microfinance and other support agencies.

"The Micros that Roared!" is not about business topics, not even about their calculations. It is about human "Heroes"—little lives, powerless people, voiceless creatures—who have packed themselves with miracles and hopes, and possibly with vocal chords that allow them to roar, worth their weight in human values, if not gold.

The reader cannot miss the values that

FOR B2

Where green means more than money

By Bill L. Santosdio
Contributor

GREEN IS THE JUST (JUSTE) HAS come a long way from being just the color of money; it represents Mother Earth and the worldwide movement to conserve the finite natural resources of the planet and sustain its habitats from further deterioration.

The movement has found its way to the corporate board rooms where influents and their allies are now working to make the principles and standards of environmentalism a basis for business decision-making.

The trend towards corporate environmentalism has been validated in a recent survey of investment and commercial banking institutions worldwide conducted by the United Nations Environment Program and Sustainalytics Inc. of New York.

The survey showed that 75 percent of respondents believe environmental issues have a significant impact on the operation of their business.

The survey, however, also found that a specific environmental criterion is less likely to be incorporated in the overall process in lending and investment. Although these institutions have taken steps to address the issue of environmental risk management, it has till now just scratched the surface.

Basis for decisions

Things, however, are beginning to change especially in Asia and the Pacific region where the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), a group of 75 development banks in 33 countries, is actively pushing environmentalism as a basis for decision-making in bank lending and investment in the region.

"We are not just pushing environmentalism as a condition for lending," according to Cristina Philippine Amboy of the United Kingdom Jesus P. Tambunting, chair of ADFIAP. "For us, environmentalism is the basis by which to judge whether businesses will succeed or fail," he says.

ADFIAP is aiming for no less than the greening of the financial arena. "We have one goal: sustainable development. I believe strongly that progress must be environmentally viable for it to be sustainable, at the very least, and profitable at best," Tambunting reminds us.

In 2005, ADFIAP partnered with the United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) to conduct a study to determine the state of sustainability in the finance practices of 19 development financing institutions (DFIs) in Asia and the Pacific. Respondents were members of ADFIAP which positions itself as "the focal point of all development banks and other financial institutions engaged in financing sustainable development in Asia-Pacific."

Sustainability to grow

Survey results showed that ADFIAP members agree sustainability in the finance sector will grow in the next five years. About 60 percent of the members look at sustainability issues as a business risk while about 63 percent regard its relevance as a business opportunity.

As a follow-through to this initiative, ADFIAP tapped the Sheffield Institute for Climate Change in Germany and the UK's Sustainability Research Institute at the University of Leeds (school of Earth and Environment) to conduct studies on environmental performance monitoring and environmental rating standards in the region.

The initiatives form part of ADFIAP's "Greening of DFIs" Project, supported by a P48,445-encryption from the European Union's Asia Pro-Eco Program. The ultimate goal of the "Greening of DFIs" project is to support sustainable development efforts of the banking and finance sector in Asia and the Pacific through development and implementation of environmental management standards ISO14 for ADFIAP member-DFIs and other participating financial institutions.

The Philippine study focused on the internal application of an Environmental Performance Monitoring (EPM) program within DFIs' organizational structures. The EPM program provides tools to benchmark DFIs' environmental management policies and practices against best industry standards. To be a truly green bank, DFIs have to be green from within.

In an external dimension, the University of Leeds' study looked into the feasibility of DFIs adopting uniform Environmental Rating Standards (ERS) for loan appraisal and project finance. The study, however, concluded that there is "lack of uniformity" in the management practices of DFIs in environmental loan appraisals. "Combined with a severe lack of transparency," the study said it would be difficult to understand how banks can treat environmental risks using a set of 'one-size-fits-all' environmental rating standards. On the other hand, the study provided several tools that green banks currently use to address environmental risks. These include: risk-adjusted pricing, monitoring, covenants, refusal of loan and portfolio exposure limits.

The results of both studies were presented during the March 2006 ADFIAP

PHOTO ORIGIN B2

All's well in the food and drinks arena

Set up a funnel cake venture for ₱200,000

TODAY'S FRANCHISE: ing business! a fun-ta and food...lavishly cooked, no-fuss meals prepared in a compact work station and served in a casual setting.

Nanie's Funnel Cake factory is a two-year old franchising system that is the brainchild of a young wife and mother.

But since is to give Filipinos the chance to enjoy a Pennsylvania Dutch specialty usually sold in amusement parks and country fairs in the US. Funnel Cakes are fried dough cakes. The original recipe comes from culinary traditions of good food often using basic products like milk, cream and butter. Imagine freshly mixed batter made from eggs, milk, sugar and flour poured in a pitcher with a funnel shaped mouth.

R.PUBIANO, Cebu bureau

The batter is poured to boiling oil, swirled in circular motion or criss-crossing back and an 8-inch round cake is made and fried until golden brown. Toppings for the cake are then shaken.

Mike says years, Cinta few, its season, decid- ed to go into franchising after gaining a following.

When she started in January 2005, she got inquiries but "I decided to be franchise ready. If I see the quality of my product and of course the profitability."

She opened an outlet at the Ramcar Mall last July 2005. She was given a 12 sq.m. area with a seating capacity of 12.

She believes the food is a good business because Filipinos like sweet offerings and anything that is fried.

"Profitability is high because margins are high and there is not much inventory involved," she says.

The franchising contract includes brand usage, training, manuals, uniforms, supplies, toppings, mixes, assistance on location and equipment including machining and booth installation.

A franchisee make about P200,000.

For franchising inquiries email Regine nell@yahoo.com or call 633-2383.

Why are sales of spirits and wine going up in RP?

MENGOZA

DESPITE THE COUNTRY'S ALLEGED falling economic conditions, imported and expensive brands of wines and spirits continue to thrive in the Philippine market. The implementation of an excise tax last year did not seem to have harmed the industry on a large scale, either.

How can Filipinos afford buying pricey alcoholic beverages in the face of inflation?

Jerry Mendoza, president and general manager of Maxxium Philippines, explains: "Filipinos see the value in imported brands. We tend to prioritize items according to consumer benefits and satisfaction that we get, the price comes secondary. This is true when it comes to basic necessities, say toothpaste, and certainly it applies also to products that do not fall under the category of basic necessities, like wines and spirits."

Maxxium Philippines is the exclusive distributor of imported spirits today. It is the local unit of Maxxium Worldwide that operates in more than 15 countries and has presence in 48 markets. Among the brands that Maxxium brings in the local market are Absolut Vodka, Berry Martin Cognac, Finsbroker Brandy, Glenallan Scotch Whisky and Jim Beam Bourbon.

"Maxxium Worldwide believes in the potential of the Philippine market," says Mendoza. The company is last invested another P100 million to put up Maxxium Philippines, just a year after it started operations in 2004.

Maxxium Philippines has registered sterling results in the short period that it has been doing business. Fundador, for one, has just been named as one of the 100 Most Powerful Brands in the Wines and Spirits sector. "They owe this success to Filipinos," Mendoza reveals. "Fundador is the number one imported brandy in the country, seeing more than half of the market share. It also claims the top spot in the imported spirits category."

The Philippines is Fundador's largest market in the world. In fact, the Philippine sales comprise more than half of the regional sales of Maxxium worldwide.

"We are very fortunate that we are handling market leaders. In the Philippines, Absolut Vodka is the number one imported vodka and Jim Beam is the number one imported bourbon," says Mendoza. The company is now eyeing the number two slot in each brand, as well as their target markets. We have to know where each type of market hangs out, for instance, and find 'are drinks' stars that our products are physically present in those places. We do this through on-premise marketing, which is so far unique in the wines and spirits industry, although some industries are beginning to follow suit," says Mendoza.

On-premise executives visit bars and restaurants assigned to them once or twice a week, during the usual "gimmick hours," to ensure that their brands are positioned well and that their promos are implemented by their partner establishments.

The Philippines has always been a key market for multinational spirits manufacturers due to the high personal consumption and Filipinos' open attitude toward the category.

With a large young population in the Philippines, Maxxium expects continuous market growth during the next five years.

"With the expansion of Maxxium Philippines will remain bullish on the prospects of the wines and spirits market in the coming years. We are positive that our industry will become even more competitive and Filipino consumers will continue to demand brands and products of the highest quality," Mendoza says.

From burger place to hotel

SYDNEY Hotel

2006: A good year for coffee

LEADING COFFEE BRAND NESCAFÉ DEMonstrated a momentous year (for 2006, jointly ated by the industry's search for coffee to two new premium products and the relaunch of existing favourites. It also took a leading role in promoting sustainable agriculture in the country.

"This very positive reaction we got for our products paid our programs from both the public and the coffee industry is a resounding encouragement for us to continue with our initiatives," says Bruno Oberhuch, Nestlé's business executive manager for the coffee business unit.

In January 2006, the company launched Nescafé First Pick, a limited edition coffee product made from coffee cherries handpicked by Filipino farmers during the beginning of the harvest season.

Then there was Nescafé Protect, a specially formulated premium chocolate drink fortified with more antioxidant protection that green tea.

"We believe that Nescafé Protect has allowed us to enter successfully that coffee is not only an enjoyable beverage but also a healthy beverage that fits very well in a modern diet and lifestyle," says Oberhuch. "In line with the ever-growing health trend we believe that Nescafé has a role to play in educating people about the link between coffee and health."

The new Nescafé Classic was given a fresh new taste and aroma, while Nescafé 3-in-1 was repackaged in a more attractive design.

The TVC, which started running last November, featured five of the biggest celebrities in the country including Dan Miller, Jose Manalo, Oyanie Wilks, John Lloyd Cruz and Piolo Pascual.

Nescafé 3-in-1 likewise continues to enjoy brisk sales because of the added convenience it affords to busy people on the go. "In new packaging market wants to open an aspirational choices where competition is strongest," says Oberhuch.

Nestlé last year celebrated the 20th anniversary of its coffee buying success operation.

Its Nestlé Experienced and Communication Plan (NECP) continues to train farmers on good coffee farming practices and provide them with high yielding coffee seedlings and organic fertilizer at cost price.

Another milestone in Nestlé's efforts to promote sustainable agriculture in the Philippines took place last December when it took the lead in pioneering the 1st Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform Philippines convention.

The conference drew the participation of the country's largest food companies, all pledging to advance sustainable agricultural practices in the Philippines.

Oberhuch is likewise optimistic about the growth of the coffee industry in the coming year.

"Coffee is a well established category and we can already foresee its growth to be in line with overall GDP growth and across the different channels," Oberhuch says.

Liquor man makes the switch

THE HANDLING OF WINES AND spirits is a meticulous and painstaking procedure. From their point of origin, they take a long and delicate journey entering the right temperature, cleanliness and storage just to have these liquid marvels go from the bottle, to the glass and finally, to the hand who drinks it.

Mike Santiestevan knows every thing about this rigorous process. As Manila Bulletin's representative of Wines and Spirits Inc., Mike is the man when it comes to the care of wines and liquor, supervising famous brands such as Jack Daniels, Jagermeister, Patron, 1800, Alize, Hiyi, Belvedere, Absolut, Tequila Rose, Bird Haus and Buffalo among others.

"Any wrong move can affect the quality of our products. And quality is the name of the game in this industry," he says.

And quality comes with a price. Any minor inconvenience will affect that keeping the temperature stable during storage is crucial in maintaining the quality of the liquor. And a big part of Mike's operations in Visayas is spent on making that happen. "We're out as long as the other players in the industry, so we really need to be efficient in getting our customers the best products possible."

SANTIESTEBAN

To save on phone bills, Mike switched to Sun Cellular. "After I've signed saving 50 percent in phone bills, who wouldn't?" he says.

Mike has been employed in Bacolod, Cebu, Davao, Subic and Baguio connected through Sun, keeping him posted with daily updates like inventory, deliveries, sales, collections and on-premise promotions, all in real-time too. "I don't hesitate to check our warehouses regularly since I don't think stores about the year."

Sun owners more than 911 billion nationally in nationwide coverage and capacity, working harder to allow more calls and texts anytime, anywhere.

For poverty-stricken lives looking for ...

From page B1

friend Chow 25 individuals like grants...land small investments, rice, some of honor tapering jobs adequately and promptly, and a lot of heart, too. Much of that heart goes out to the workers and family who lives a hand as the concepts are rounded and nodded approvingly and everyone seems to play that role even as the cameras pitch up speed.

Many of the respondents effusively give credit to their of their staff whom they treat as family. "It is that heart is reserved for the microfinance agencies that provided and still provide the much needed capital at the time crucial times—Hubay sa Kauswagan, Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, Chowking Agribased Multipurpose Cooperative, Enterprise Bank, Kinlaklan sa Mandilal sa Bukay, Mara tinapunan Bank, Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, Opportunity International Bank, People's Alternative Livelihood Foundation of Surigao, and Urban Program for Livelihood Finance and Training.

Not a how-to book

If you are looking for a how-to book, this is not for you. There are few lessons here on entrepreneurial skills and tools imparts. The Gift Hill has published other books for that purpose.

This book is for those who are looking for a ray of sunshine in their poverty-stricken lives and those who are in search of inspiration in a ruling of hard knocks in their personal lives or in their business ventures. The life stories are for both beginning and seasoned entrepreneurs who delight in the insights gained from the experiences of those who make it big in similar situations.

Also, because it is easy and interesting reading, peopled by ordinary human beings who experience ordinary human feelings such as joy and pain but who bring a dimension of specialness into that ordinariness, this volume is for everyone, young or old, who finds inspiration from their pain as well.

Long after you have finished reading "The Bhavin that Roared," you may still hear the morning of the lotus that has found its secret voice. Or is that a tiger in those eyes?

(For inquiries, call 920-7576 loc 70 or email mjh.inq@inq.com.ph.)

Where green...

from page B1

working conference in Hanoi, Vietnam to tackle barriers deforestation and illegal logging in the Mekong, India visited in June. ADFAP is preparing a country guidebook and a resource book containing the issues, methods, tools and institutions for disseminating environmental governance standards of member banks. Transforming the dread.

National seminar-workshops will be conducted for around 200 senior executives and middle managers of DFIs throughout Asia to provide insights and appreciation of environmental management practices and environmental issues in lending operations.

Board in Motion: City since its founding by the Asian Development Bank in October 1969, ADFAP is the largest organization of its kind in Asia and the Pacific with currently 70 member banks from 35 countries. In the Philippines, it counts among its members the Development Bank of the Philippines, Philippine Development Bank of Industry, Land Bank of the Philippines, Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (PhilExim), SLDC Savings and Quezon City Development Bank of Iloilo.

People, Events & Products

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Edna Arias-Espinosa

AIM and AAAIM to host Asian Business Conference

THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT (AIM) and the Alumni Association of the Asian Institute of Management (AAAIM) are hosting the forthcoming Asian Business Conference slated for March 1-3, 2007 at the Hotel Intercontinental Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

With the theme "AIM for Asia: Unlocking New Opportunities", the Asian Business Conference will bring together the movers and shakers in Asian business to share best practices and examine new rising opportunities. It will also discuss the new AIM for a new Asia.

The powerhouse roster of invited conference speakers include (in alphabetical order): Sunil Abeng, William Indonesia, Felipe Alfonso, ABS business chair, Syed Ali Tawfik Al-Attas, Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM), Anne Augusto, Edsel Dr. Ayala II, Ayala Corporation, Jeremy Bate, Deutsche Bank, Tony Tan Caktiong, Jollibee Foods Corporation, Robert Chandran, Chemical Corporation, Jin Ching, Temasek Holdings Singapore, Victor L.C. Chu, First Eastern Investment Corporation, Yuh Ping Jue, Bates Group, Wendy Thai Deputy Prime Minister Philippines, Dominic Dwiputra, Nobby Dalkan, PT Corporation Indonesia, Indonesia, Francis Fernando, Asian Institute of Management, Mark Fuller, Monitor Group, Dr Victor Fung, Li & Fung, Hui Tat Executive (Ms) Ahmad Zaqi Bin Hamid, Permodalan Nasional Berhad Malaysia, Dr. Stanislav Kasyan, Asian Development, Scott Kirk, Richard Li, pacific Century Holdings Limited, Dr. David K.P. The Bank of East Asia Ltd., Dato' Nafsiah Mohamad, Deg Teik Meng, National Investment Co Berhad.

Also invited were Dr. S.N. Narayana Murthy, Infosys Technologies Ltd and Asian Institute of Management, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, Napoleon Nazareno, PLDT-Smart Communications, David Newbigging, Cisco Systems (USA) Inc, Joseph Ee (Ee) Mohd Azman Hj. Mohd Nor, Federation of AIM Alumni Associations, Indonesia, Dr. Gunawan, Manuel Pangilinan, PLDT, Jagdish Parikh, Lemon Group of Companies, Ricardo Nunez, AAAIM-Philippine Chapter, Ramon Del Rosario, Phinma, Anthony Salim, Salim Group, Dr. Atilla Sinirgil, PT Medco Energy International TBK, Manuyuki Goi, Softbank Corp, Washington Sycip, SGV Group, George Taipa, PT Astrindo Nusantara Infra, Andrew Wahrhaftig, World Bank, Dr. Yu-ming Kuo, Anqiang University-Vietnam and Long Yongtu, Beijing Review for Iran.

Other highlights of the Asian Business Conference are a Trade Exhibit coinciding with the Conference at Makati Shangri-La Hotel on March 1, 2007. Asian Banker at the Asian Institute of Management on Feb. 28 to March 2, 2007 and an Asian Filmfest on Feb. 26 to March 2, 2007.

Conference participation fees are P8,000 for alumni and P10,000 for non-alumni. Early registrants can avail of the early bird discount: 10 percent for individuals and 20 percent for groups (minimum of 20 per group). Either register on or before Jan. 31, 2007.

For more information on AIM and AAAIM's Asian Business Conference, please call the Conference Secretariat at telephone 892-4011 loc 4077.

Serving as co-promoters of the conference are Smart and PLDT. Other partners are Businessworld, Business Mirror, Entrepreneur Magazine and Fitness.

DRAGON FIREWORKS, ROMA INK AGREEMENT

Welcoming the New Year with fireworks has been a part of Filipino tradition. While it can be said that no Filipino New Year celebration is complete without the fireworks display, it has been consistently associated with the Filipino culture, which has all year long, is now completely Filipino. Of course, celebrating this year with quality fireworks is a really important task. This is where Dragon Fireworks' international quality standards comes in. Tried and tested for many years, it is the brand chosen by most celebrations and professionals alike for quality and excellence. For more info on Dragon Fireworks, clients, products, and services, please log on to www.dragonfireworks.com. Pictured above: Mike Enriquez, president of ROMA Mattress Inc. and Jovan Ong (second from right), president of Dragon Fireworks, he got an agreement on the safety tips on playing fireworks as it is the coming New Year. Also shown in photo during the contract signing are RJ Jacinto Sony (left), sales director for radio, CMPI and Jovan Sun (right), account manager, Ayala Mall Serving Agency.

LARGEST CHRISTMAS FEAST IN MANILA

This could perhaps be considered as the largest Christmas party in Manila as students were treated to an early Christmas celebration with 250,000 food packs of Hamburger, Fresh Mango Pies, and juice drinks. They were only too happy that children World Record Attempt granted their request to have Jollibee make for the occasion. Manilenos were also gifted with holy water and rosaries, and were treated to Christmas carols and Santa Claus who made a personal visit, bringing cheer to kids and adults alike. The event was part of the program 'Hating ng Langaw Mark Jimenez'.

Middle Eastern group to invest in a five-star hotel in Makati

A PROMINENT GROUP FROM THE MIDDLE EAST is on the Philippines in December to discuss with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the planned development of a one-hectare property in the Bonifacio Global City into a five-star hotel. It will be located in the central business district of Makati. At 40,000 square meters, the property is the largest remaining piece of land available for integrated development within Makati City and an excellent location for a luxury hotel development.

Among the components of this 41-property development is an IT Park which will house upscale corporate centers, among others. The development aims includes commercial buildings, residential buildings, a retail complex, and of course, the hotel.

The 35-site was awarded to a consortium led by property developer Century Properties, Inc. and its strategic partners Crescent Point Holdings, Ltd. of Singapore and Pixie Holdings Inc., a member of the Ayala Group of Companies. Pixie Holdings, which has a 27.5 percent share in the development consortium, is led by its chairman emeritus, Ambassador Amable B. Aguilar Jr. The Ayala Group is the main project sponsor of the hotel project.

The Ayala Group will promote during the visit, 25 property's master development plan, which will be known as the Fort Bonifacio Global City or the Bgc Carbon Group. Some who have expressed interest in the hotel project are the Shangrila Group, Jumeira Group, Four Seasons Group, and InterContinental Hotels Group.

Court Locator 2006-2007 Edition now off-the press

THE 2006-2007 EDITION "COURT LOCATOR 2006-2007" Edition is now off-the press. This was announced by Judge Violeta E. Pulido, the publisher/author. According to Judge Pulido, the "secret" of the Court Locator lies in its Court Locator Number II Designation, also culled from the Supreme Court Dec. 6, by specific cities and also Presiding Justice Ruben T. Reyes, the new "Head" of the Court of Appeals. Pulido said the Court Locator contains the latest and complete directory of and information on the following: Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan, Court of Tax Appeals, Regional Trial Courts, Metropolitan Trial Courts, Department of Justice, City and Provincial Prosecutors, the National Labor Relations Commission, Commission on Human Rights, Office of the Ombudsman and Special Prosecutor and Office of the Solicitor General. Of interest to the Court lawyers is the exclusive thereof of the increased legal fees on appearance under Rule 141 of the new Rules of Court, and the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court to be observed by the Trial Judges and Clerks of Court in the conduct of Pre-Trial and use of Deposition-Discovery Measures (A.M. No. 03-1-09-SC dated July 12, 2004). Pulido said. Publications that sources of the Court Locator 2006-2007 are available at the following: Central Book Store; the Book Store; La Solidaridad Book Store; Office of the Clerk of Court of the Trial Courts of Manila, Quezon City, Pasay, Caloocan, Makati and Pasig City.

Parade of floats to feature evolution of houses in Philippines

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REAL ESTATE industry and the government's efforts to provide quality low-cost housing to its urban families, the Cebu Social Housing Foundation Inc. (CSHFI) will hold a Boat parade featuring the different architectural styles of houses in the Philippines.

The parade, part of the real estate industry's celebration of the Philippine Properties Festival 2007 in January , will trace the evolution of the Filipino dwelling, from rudimentary caves and nipa huts to the various socialized, low cost and high-end developments available today.

While the Cebu Social Housing Foundation Inc. has "no floating home", the festival aims to showcase Filipinos living or working aboard it their building their dream houses in the Philippines.

Dubbed "Kasaysayan ng Bahay Pilipino," the parade will also highlight how the government has, through the years, consistently made available programs to encourage Filipinos to avail of housing projects, said Rose Boni, chair of CSHFI, the social arm of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Cebu).

"The parade is guaranteed to be a historical and visual spectacle. It will involve 20 floats, each of which is designed to reflect the architectural style of a certain period or era of Philippine history, foreign influences, geographic or functionality, or geographical location," Boni said.

"Floats are considered as messages of good will. The float parade aims to promote the real estate industry and also establish goodwill to the public. Creativity and design ingenuity in every float, while downplaying over-commercialism, is requested from every participant," she added.

To help sponsors in designing and building their floats, the CSHFI has enlisted the aid of interior and exterior designers Felipe Balaba Jr. to guide architecture students from at least 15 major colleges and universities in Metro Manila.

"Designers and builders must keep the design's safety and stability of the designs of the Filipino dwellings and the periods to which they belong. Likewise, the authenticity of the colors, parades would be asked to review the design for each float prior to approval," Boni said.

Architecture students of several colleges and universities have already signed up, shows the area they wish to tackle, and begun collaborating with Balaba's top cadres on historical research.

The parade is sponsored in part by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and its member agencies, including the Home Mutual Development Fund (Pag-IBIG).

Proceeds of the float parade, which will traverse Osmena Boulevard from the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex to the Mall of Asia in Pasay City, will go to chosen beneficiaries of the Cebu Social Housing Foundation.

For details and inquiries, call the Philippine Properties Festival 2007 secretariat at (032) 831-8224, (0) 9-2056-150 or (0918) 949-5046.

Bits & Clips

Automatic's '58 Merry Christmases'

AUTOMATIC GERYK: SHEAP-plance authority for almost 50 years now, gives you over 58 million worth of reasons to celebrate Christmas with its "58 Merry Christmases" promo. Subscribers can until Jan. 31, the promo gives you a chance to enjoy of the 58 exciting raffle prizes worth P1,000, projectors, home theaters, dvd players, digital cameras, mp3 players, cash prizes, home appliances, mp3 players, (a-1 Boy recliners and furniture showcase) and the first draw was on this Nov. - exciting freebies and giveaways are available for customers who enter into in-side array of top brand appliances, audio-video products and gadgets - all available at any consumer and affordable terms. Hurry! Visit Automatic Center near at any of them branches: Greenhills 1 and Gonzaga at Makati, Market! Market! Mall at Taguig, Festival Supermall and Ayala Town Center in Alabang, SM South Mall Las Piñas, Gaisano Mall Pasay, Robinsons Galleria Ortigas, Robinsons Galleria, Sobrang Novaliches, Value Station Cubao and SM North Edsa in Quezon City. You can also visit any of the Super Home and Office Center outlets at Alabang 1 in Muntinlupa, Eastwood Town Center in Cainta and in Sucat in Parañaque 1, Manila.

M&M's Christmas Promo

LAUREDAS LAST DECEMBER!, THE M&M'S JOLLY Up Your Christmas Promo has gotten so much response already. We have still been on hand in spreading that Merrilees and the Yuletide season. M&M is giving away Honda Jazz cars to three lucky people in the grand draw, plus hundreds of other great prizes weekly. In all, you have to do is buy specially marked packs of M&M's chocolate candies, look for the scale on the sticker and text in your entry to 2366. Whoppers must be kept to make your entry valid. Log on to www.mms.com.ph for more details. Starting today, you can also send a picture of yourself with your favorite M&M character to www.mms.com.ph and have a Merry Christmas, this year. Check out posters and print advertisements for more information. Remember, all it takes is a few hours of your time and you can surely enjoy this a brand new car, cooking stoves or an LCD TV. Who knows, it might only to have a perfect Christmas! And the good news is, this promo is extended until Jan. 15, 2007 and the grand draw to be held on Jan. 31, 2007. Kidness! I get any better than this! So what are you waiting for, grab your M&M's Christmas Promo packs now! Happy Holidays from Jolly Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

'New Year Countdown' at the Century Park Hotel

WELCOME 2007 IN STYLE AND ENTERTAINMENT as Century Park Hotel highlights the celebration with exciting activities. The New Year Blast Double DJ theme will be Jurassic Lounge on Dec. 31 from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. featuring the guest DJs Mike Enriquez and Jason Ramirez. Dress to impress in the theme - one standouts such as Frank Sinatra, Tom Petty and Dean Martin. A contest of songs and dances featuring Paul Mortenson, Ann Nolan, Rex Sandia, Glenn Alan Arriola, and the Cafe Mix Staff. Host is Entertainment Dancers. The house DJs and residential bands make you groove starting at 9 p.m. All guests who will be in their sparkly inspired attire will also win exciting prizes. Noisemakers and party packages at the Lobby Lounge, while supplies last. Dinner Buffet at the Lobby Lounge is served from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. Don't forget to count to out the exciting balloon drop at the stroke of 12 midnight. Cafe in the Park and Lilies Japanese Restaurant are now open for their revised to avail only a minimum consumable amount of P500++ on New Year. Take an exciting drive of the Manila skyline with Century Park Limousine. Book on your reservation 2007 with Mimi Pobbler at the 19th floor. Cocktail as A New Special Countdown with Chambrose Mike Fontanilla at the top of the Century, chime starts from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., with a menu of Filipino delicacies and Chinese New Year consumption. The first 50 guests will be given party hats with blow horn to welcome the year 2007. For inquiries and reservations please call 319-0888.

Product Files

Crustasia Yuletide treats

SEASONS GREETINGS TO YOU AND YOUR loved ones! Crustasia, the Filipino-Chinese restaurant with a modern twist, is celebrating the holidays with a scrumptious Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet at Crustasia - bring your family and friends and treat them to delicious, mouth-watering delights by Crustasia, for a great selection of delectable dishes prepared by the head chef in-charge. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Crustasia's Buffet includes Crustasia's specialties - seafood and seafood dishes, menu from the ala carte such as King Crab Spaghetti, Scallop and Broccoli Stir Fry, Salt and Pepper Jumbo Bulk Shrimp, Pineapple Fried Rice, Pan-Fried Catfish with Green Curry Sauce, Vegetables That Style, Stir Fried Beef, Thai Papaya Salad, Egg Pie, Sweet Steamed Milk and a lot more plus their Yuletide treats for dessert lovers. Crustasia is located at the Mall Floor of The Podium, 18 ADB Ave. Ortigas Center. Visit the branch at Crustasia Rockwell Power Plant Mall in Makati City which offers the same. Please call 738-6888 or 631-3862 for inquiries and reservations.

Party savvy for the New Year

MADE SURE TO BE READY TO greet the New Year with an exciting keyboard. And nothing's all creativity like downthrough Hunt's. The world's leader in tomato sauces, this year's no exception to giving tips to help make your New Year party preparations more stress-free and a whole lot more delicious. Flavors and sauces. Snap up a to do list from priorities. Doing things in advance lessens the load on the day of the party. Account tally. If someone offers help, accept it. Delegate to everyone else the party assignments. Set the mood. A little background music can even jumpstart a party, and set the tone. Determine the type of music that your guests enjoy and create a playlist. Theme. Set the stage or do to pick. Relax and mingle. A party should be fun, instead of getting all worked up and frustrated, relax and just enjoy it with your guests and loved ones. Have no fear to prepare and festive food. There's no point in preparing a menu that ends too much of you. The key is preparing festive but easy-to-prepare foods such as spaghetti. Hunt's Spaghetti Sauces make throwing a party a no sweat and definitely more fun. There are excellent flavors to choose from such as Hunt's Spaghetti Parmesan Cheese Spaghetti Sauce, perfect for cheese lovers. Fans of the authentic taste of tomato-rich spaghetti will love the Italian Style Spaghetti Sauce. For those looking for the authentic flavor of meat, we recommend Hunt's Spaghetti Sauce Mushroom. Kids will definitely love Hunt's sweet-tasted. Hunt's Party Spaghetti. Its sweet blend is specially formulated to tickle the taste buds of the spoiled kids. Just like other Hunt's Spaghetti Sauces, the label Hunt's variant is made from the finest tomatoes with a special blend of herbs and spices. Hunt's can help make your spaghetti a source of innovation rather than stress. The different Hunt's spaghetti sauce variants in stores are available in supermarkets nationwide.

Sunday BIZ

Cutting costs not enough, creating demand is

Marketing communications network adopts new concept to help businesses achieve growth

By Joel V. Pilgo

FOR SOME TIME, THE CONCEPT of supply and demand helped businesses realize their growth targets. In fact, this philosophy has existed for more than 200 years and communications and marketing companies have been relying on it in their efforts to build the businesses of their clients.

But so much has changed since the idea was introduced into existence ages ago.

The marketplace is now much more competitive, new markets keep on spreading, and new niches are growing. The pendulum has swung away from the traditional to more creative approaches to business.

This prompted McCann, the world's and the country's largest marketing communications network, to reassess and redefine its work amid the changes in the marketplace.

The assessment's climax sees another dynamism. McCann adopted a new philosophy, known as Demand Creation.

This new thinking rebrands McCann into a results-oriented marketing communications company that applies—from advertising to media planning and buying, from relationship marketing to activation, from brand consultancy to PR and even specialized communications—its full bounty—with the ultimate aim of stimulating demand for marketers' products and services.

The new concept creates McCann Worldgroup Philippines (from McCann Erickson Philippines).

Under this are companies such as Momentum (event marketing, sponsorship), sales promotions; IMM Portico (direct/customer relationship management); online marketing communications (through Zeromyx); Weber Shandwick (public relations); Universal McCann (media planning/buying, communications architecture); Team Detail (frontline communications), and Futurethinkers (brand consulting and brand design).

Radical change

Eric Kinderen, McCann's global chief strategist and recently appointed regional director for Asia-Pacific, says that Demand Creation is radically changing brand management paradigms and turning ga-ga with strategies.

The concept, he says, is needed for marketers to survive in a world that has become abundant in supply. As more and more companies realize that satisfying their own needs does not guarantee the most sustainable way to achieve the bottomline is by creating demand for one's brand.

"The business world has changed, the marketing world has changed and above all the consumer world has changed. [Still] worldwide even believes that the key to success is building demand and keeping that demand upward at night. There's a need to engage people in order to maintain that demand. It's not just about 'this is nice about my product, we'll hope you can buy,'" says Kinderen, author of the new philosophy.

KINDEREN

More than efficiencies

Kinderen has led multiple initiatives on a variety of McCann Erickson's clients such as MasterCard, Nestle and General Motors. He's also responsible for Microsoft's corporate brand strategy and led the expansion of Marlboro Cavili's "Freedom" campaign globally.

Kinderen cites that for decades businesses have been able to grow profits through efficiencies like use of better technology. This led to more efficient production which boosted production rates, resulting in lower prices of consumer goods.

But because of competition, companies find they cannot keep on grow just by increasing efficiencies.

"The new Demand Creation project is taking the core out of the business [and will] also get better profits. Businesses now have to focus on the top line and restore demand again. The world is no longer a supply-driven economy," he says.

With McCann (now McCann Worldgroup) adhering to the new philosophy, Kinderen says that their success comes from demand better for their clients.

"If you look at clients and client partners especially the big organizations, they are not used to acting in this new [Demand Creation] manner [or CEOs] manage investments, cost, profits, persons, and they do this through analysis or understanding. What Demand Creation needs is an entrepreneurial, risk-taking, innovative mindset," he says.

What demand creation does is give a point of focus to everything.

"The whole demand chain process starts with understanding where consumers markets are heading. That means all our resources is geared toward that. Because many times [that's why we say] drive demand creation potentially to companies."

'AIDA' philosophy

Kinderen emphasizes that there's nothing wrong with the old AIDA (attention-interest-desire-action) philosophy. "Twenty years ago, for years, the world was dominated by packaged or consumer goods and then old philosophy idea eight-well with creating demand for these products.

"But get a stimulus, we put something in the mind of consumers, the consumers go to the supermarket, and if they want it, they take it. It was sort of a very long term view of brand relationship. The problem with that is analysis. Before consumers gave us people our money centered and who are in charge of their own wealth. They were conscious, but thinking that we put an image out there and we expect them to respond no longer works. Today's consumers get that image, they get the products, and they are the Internet. Customers can create their own will to our favor in the Internet. We have to go after them. If we don't engage them, we're not going to win," Kinderen stresses.

He says that since advertising will draw a very good job of pointing to thousands of people what a brand stands for. But since the whole supply-demand process has changed, there's a need to engage people.

"So the idea of building a brand for eternity no longer works. The way brand building has a long-term view Demand Creation has a long-term and short-term view. It can't wait as users. It's a way to talk to consumers but the purpose is not to build the brand. There are lots of differences in the model today much more than changing much more now. In the whole sequence about the old model saying first you get attention, then you get consideration, then you get desire, and finally convert people to take your brand to engage that useful."

Changes

Changes in consumer behavior, in consumer expectations, in people's characteristics, expectations of business, and the wider use of new-fashioned media are the reasons why Demand Creation philosophy.

Rolled out by its parent company two years ago, its local office has adopted the new concept recently.

"The changes in consumers behavior worldwide are also felt by businesses here," observes Rizalie Archer, McCann Worldgroup Philippines president and CEO who has steered McCann to new levels during her watch to the last two years or so.

McCann's local clients include Coca-Cola, San Miguel Beer, Globe Telecom, Nestle consumer products such as Maggi and Confectionery, and Jack and Jill snacks.

McCann Worldgroup has operations in 132 countries as well as portfolio of specialized marketing companies.

How casual meeting started pioneering service business

FELICIANO

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — COUNTDOWN

ACROSS

1 Die-away
6 Neighbor of Penélope
10 Eschelon units
14 Big name in Asian wine
19 Tag, you're it, for one
20 Spot
21 Hotel dining
22 Religious sect founded in Korea
23 Bridge-building unit
24 Rebuke
25 Perform an autopsy on
26 Rebuke for a child
27 Cub girl, e.g.
28 Dastardly type
29 Where the devil might live?
30 Number after zero
31 "Screw again?"
32 Binocular part
34 Pretty good, as golfers go
35 Tahiti-born Gauguin
36 Year in San Paulo
37 Ms. Rhodes' daughter
39 Lacking in "Superman"
40 Bad-to-Bronson
41 Bottle-bottom
42 Rum-running again
43 Reverend Jesse
44 Pre-Lenten party
46 Shift in Korea
47 Pre-Lenten party
48 Lodge in the sky
49 Pre-Lenten party
50 "Did it —?"
51 Pre-Lenten party
52 "Did we — ourselves?"
53 Sailor hitch
54 Where the devil might live?
57 Cub's first baseman
58 Hotel room
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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banzá-Formoso

Zodiac animalia

BIG BOAR—I love this wild boar bristling with bristles. Bet you, my lover, said, "Ay, ahoka ka pusit!"

BORN RUDE—The rat jumped over them to get to the Buddha first. This rat is atypical. He's sorry he's a rat.

TIRED HORSE—This is an overburdened, overachieving horse loaded with decorations and problems. It is my zodiac sign.

Text and artworks by Gilda Cordero Fernando

TIGER—If you're gorgeous but have a heart as a tiger, you'll take a mate as a tiger. But this one is lovable.

WHAT'S WITH "DAWG," "Bar," "Tired Horse," and "Lazy Dragon?" They're zodiac icons! That's what I did last November. I painted and painted them. And painted some more. I couldn't find a word to write. Maybe I was brain-dead from shopping to 10th.

My new friend Irene says when you need help for something, you close your eyes and call on your spirit guide. Anata spirit guide is not necessarily one particular soul...for indeed, if I invoked all! advice how could I get it if my spirit guide were color blind?

So now, talk-it, legs to all artist souls out there. And Chey come rushing down, eager to help! Dali, Picasso and Ang Kiukok and Jill Ocampo and Gaston Klint and Michelangelo. Sorry, guys, this is for souls. I have a nice new year.

"RAT"—My daughter-in-law loves rat cats who eats the goldfish in her tower. Mingming looks like this in her.

"DAWG"—I guess it's his Puppy, our white Lab who got lost. This is his real version.

SILLY GOAT—Yun, I know it's the wrong goat color. My hobby said, "Why can't you just be normal and paint a sunset?"

WHATEVER—I drew a goose or a duck but someone thought it's an elephant or a seal. Or a turtle.

SAY DRAGON—My grandkids are experts at drawing dragons. They complain that mine has no fire and no balls.

KALABÁO—The carabao is a stand-in for the ox. Milkmaids must have gone through three horns.

(Some of these zodiac mask will be in the exhibit of PLAC [Philippine Literary Arts Council] artworks, curated by Brigitte Ramos and Joel Mallorca, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines main gallery, Jan. 25-Feb. 28, 2007.)

MONIQUE Lhuillier-Bagtas with proud father Benjamin Lhuillier

FUNKTIONAL Jeremy Pastores and William Go

TIARA Bell-Ivan Pacilio and Linda Aldana

NEWLYWEDS Vince and Rhoda Atienza and Rector's Alec and Nina Tarrosa

MONIQUE Lhuillier show producer and husband Tom Bagtas, Louise Erni, JR Isaac, Sea Princess, Swiss CEO William Hamilton-Whyte and Tim Yap

PHD-DATH TAKING. Johnny Hubilla, Tessa Almirañez, Dr. Leonor Tripon-Rosero, Sea Princess, Swiss Director and Tony Adriano

Milestones of 2006

LOOKING BACK, I would like to honor the gigantic events and monumental charity projects that made 2006 an incredibly exciting year. Without those memorable and vibrant activities, the year would have passed by too quickly.

It was an exciting year. I had a date with the reefs off Palawan and got blessings from the Virgin of Baclaran

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Hilado

Sunny is the spice of life. Indeed, this year witnessed a cavorcion of spectacular openings, energetic adventures, bonding trips, heartfelt affairs and unique festivals. In that whirlwind, the beautiful thing is that most were orchestrated with charity in mind and thus raised much needed funds for several organizations.

Starting off 2006 on a most festive and happy mood, who can forget the Rendezvous Caribbean Gala Night? Such the bid of all of us is brightly lit up The Post day with its awesome color? Actually born this flap of heaven to Super and my daughter Sandra celebrated their birthday there and invited friends all dressed in loud, colorful carnival outfits.

Rendezvous indeed is because it that got me back into athletic fighting form. Former RSBC CEO Marcos Manotoc organized the Charity Challenge, raising over P2 million for children's fund. The rising fun was reaction around the Manila Polo Club featured nine-year athletes who raced to support this worthy cause and lovable Marnie, too.

Adventurous Bimbo and Jessie Lopez were part of this event. Little did they know that this would kick off their energetic year in to high gear, as they later became one of two Filipino pairs in "The Amazing Race Asia".

March was the month Pathfinder opened its doors to eleven with elegantly sophisticated name in European furniture, by high-end, stylish furnishings are displayed from all glass, impressive building in The Fort. Peninsula has much to offer Jessie and extraordinary sight-lines are available to local urbanites.

That same month, high profile show-biz princess Rufa Gutierrez-Rabilas held a

BENCH King-Ben Chan

celebrity charity garage sale to donate over a million to calamity-stricken St. Bernard, Leyte. After personally managed to raise this so-actually sell their clothes and have photo-manicure with guests. Even dressed down and zero makeup, Rufa is beautiful, both inside and out.

Edukasyon remdezvous

The summer months were spent at sea. First, I had the chance to go scuba diving at the world-class Tubbataha Reefs off Palawan, with a most honored buddy, PGMA herself. My sea- and adventure was being part of the inaugural cruise around the world's largest cruise ship, Royal Caribbean's Freedom of the Seas.

June marked my 12th wedding anniversary and we certainly celebrated at Boracay Tropics in the country's top tourist destination, Boracay. That month was also the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Philippine Missions to the Philippines. This is done to my heart because the Redemptorists brought Our Lady of Perpetual Help to the country. I am a regular Wednesday devotee at Baclaran Church and this miraculous Virgin has granted many prayers and petitions.

July was a busy month. At quaint, sprawling Mall of Asia, the world's largest cruise liner, SM, welcomed viewers to watch special feature films on a monumental screen. Superstars never looked so powerful and good-looking as in the IMAX 3D movie-versions.

Big only got bigger with the biennial Bench Show at the Araneta Coliseum. The show was a most smashing three-parts, with its filled to

DIVING with PGMA at Tubbataha Reefs onboard the 'Bribar'

exquisitely fashion parade highlighted with live performances by The Village People and Sir Elton John. British king Boy George hosted the spectacular affair as his beautiful endorsers paraded their sizzling figures to sparkling disco rhythms.

Royal blood

August brought true royalty to our city and a most genuinely philanthropic one at that. Princess Caroline of Monaco, touched the hearts of so many of the less fortunate living in the depressed areas of Tondo and Pasay. Together with the volunteers of the Villanin Foundation, Prince Andrea interviewed different Villanin trainees and youth princess. Her mission: personal touch, a warm source of hope and an inspiring message of help to those in need.

As I turned another year older in September, my party was on the Assumption Alumni hillside and Manila preparations. As still any homecoming, it was wonderful to be with my long-lost classmates from all over the world celebrating our 25th year from Assumption high school. It was double-special because the Golden Batch included my mom, Marita Prieto, who has been so generous in this utilized and others.

The much-awaited event of the year was the Monique Lhuillier Gala Show and Dinner at the Makati Shangri-La. After three years of preparations, the most elegant fashion show of Hollywood sensation Monique Lhuillier-Bagtas, with a very special performance by world famous and new music Lea Salonga-Cheng, was presented to a generous audience that raised over P1.9 million for the Philippine Red Cross of Reina Lopez and Asia Society Philippines.

December kicked off with the beforehand birthday party of Tatler's top fan boys, Mollie Abilara. The astonishing silver and fireworks show were a grand finale despite some sober-ized ladies who danced through the lovely evening.

2006 was indeed filled with momentous occasions. These milestones mark the passage of yet another precious year. As we reflect on the past, let us not fail to acknowledge and honor those we love and who deserve proper credit for a good year.

Happy New Year, Philippines!

E-mail me at yourprincess@inquirer.com.ph

Short-lived affair gets a sequel

DEAR EMILY,

Four years ago, my husband had an affair and a child with a woman who was a business associate of a celebrity. My husband was jobless then and he was helping in my production of Tuesday shows.

This woman, who is 12 years his junior and is also married (to an OFW) and has three children, was an assistant in one of the sponsors. They had a month-long affair and she got pregnant.

When my husband left to work abroad, he sent money to support his child with her. My problem started when my husband came home. This woman demanded that he sleep in her house so the child would see him in the morning upon waking up. And he would.

Then when he went home to his own family, she would send him text-messages and emails. She is now telling my husband to pay for the house she lives in with her three children and her child with my husband. Why should she do this when she has a husband of her own?

My husband tells me he is doing this for the child and I should think positive. He tells me he loves me but he does everything to please her as well. I love my husband and he is a very good father to my two girls who think the world of him.

I am getting crazy and getting sick of this affair. We have accepted this child and it's okay with me if my husband brings that home to us to live (and care of, that he insists he has to go to this woman's house so the child

EMILY'S POST
Emily A. Marcelo

will not be alienated from him.
I think this is all crap!
SHUTTLED WIFE

Yes, you are indeed a wife trying to be a martyr. But martyrs do die in a sense—a metaphorical sense. There's no nobility in suffering for people who take advantage of you night and day.

It is your husband who you should straighten out here. If he just wants to be close to the child, s/he doesn't he take up your offer and bring the kid home to you, his family? But to stay overnight in the woman's house is the

reason of "fatherly love" is a lot of bull.

He already made a mistake once and is already paying for it needlessly. Is this long drawn suffering for his family going to be endless?

He must choose between you or the other woman. From the looks of it, he has created a complete fool who believes everything he says. Make sure you attend he'll leave you and you're become blind, deaf and brain-dead to what's happening around you.

You're holding on to that tiny thread of hope that somehow... just maybe... your husband's profession of love for you is true. Just remember that love should bring no pain because love is joy. Love is considerate. Love is caring.

Is he making you feel any of these?

If you have already allowed him to manifest deep-seated with the other woman, the problem now is in your court. You should have put your foot down at the first transgression. You already lost him then. Anything else that follows is due to the wind, a fool's paradise.

He and the other woman will just be safe you, off and continue whatever it is they're doing. Through late, the change must start from you, the aggrieved party. Commit yourself to a decision now and stick to it. Otherwise, consider your husband and you a lost cause.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer Lines to Ms Marcelo to find the program "Kabuhayan Magkaisa," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, or dial 810-3434 to 39.

Casino Español celebrates feast of the Three Kings

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY is celebrated Jan. 6. It's more popularly known as Feast of the Three Kings because Baby Jesus manifested Himself to the nations from the East bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Epiphany means "manifestation."

Spain was ordered by Queen Isabella and so do we at the Casino Español de Manila. Children gather in massive gifts from the Three Kings.

Katrina Uson-Ritell, whose husband Timo Ritell played the Red King at King Balthasar two years ago, describes what has become a tradition at Casino Español on TM Kalaw St., Ermita:

Katrina said, "For Spanish children, this is the most important day of the year when they make special their dear Los Reyes Magos (Three Kings) because gifts lie there. Santa may leave them a token gift on Christmas Day but the Three Kings are their favorites, especially Balthasar who rides a donkey and is believed to leave left the gifts.

"On Jan. 5, the Three Kings continue their grand march, distributing gifts to children in hospitals all over Spain.

"At the Casino Español, the Three Kings (usually members' sons) begin their journey by riding on horseback around the casino, distributing candies and little gifts to children.

"In the casino, they are warmly greeted by parents and children. The kings then [sit] on special chairs on a festive stage in the middle of the Patio de Sevillas.

"There, the children... line up... [and] the kings distribute the gifts, pose for pictures and then wave goodbye... After the kings [leave], the club offers merienda-negra, jamon and lots of treats for the kids while their parents catch up and enjoy Spanish tapas.

"The children play with their new toys, munch scrumptious gastronomic delights and make friends with other children."

New Magi

This year's Three Kings are Ali Reyes, as the Red King or King Balthasar; Fernando de Gante, as the White King or King Gaspar; and Dipo Ramos, as the Black King or King Melchior.

Katrina says there will also be a Tres Reyes Bazaar. Interested parties can rent a table for P3,500. Text 0917-8696586 or 667-2032.

Reinoza Amoranto de Lanuza and Pete Magsaysay are owner-committee co-chairs. Members are Sarina Elizondo, Katrina, Sea Segura-Ripoll, whose husband Roland was the Black King in an earlier year; Margarita Ripoll and Gerda Sanz. The president of the 113-year-old casino is Francisco Gomez de Liano.

Mission

Since Manuel Nieva was acquitted in 1878 by the Supreme Court of a crime he did not commit, he has been visiting prisons all over the country giving inmates their basic needs like toothpaste, bath soaps, toothbrushes, laundry soaps, etc.

He is supported by benefactors, generalists in Ayala Corporation, head of the International Love Foundation, a prison ministry. Father Layos is also Reyna's spiritual director and parish priest of the famed Church of Jesus Church in Broadside Villa, Cainta, Rizal.

Reyna could have become a successful engineer had he not been arrested of arson. Sing fire to the Gonzen Theater on C.M. Recto Avenue in the '70s. After staying in prison for years, the Supreme Court found him innocent of the crime.

The suffering would have been enough for him to lose his faith but Reyna helped his fellow prisoners, instead.

Those who want to respond to God's call to help can text Reyna at 0926-2772840 or Father Layos at 0919-8674901 or call 4842251. Reyna is scheduled to bring basic things to the prisons in Bukidnon and Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao after the New Year.

Aside from Nieva's transportation money, generous people can also give toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars towels, laundry soaps, bath soaps, medicines for skin diseases, diarrhea, colds, cough, asthma, chocolate powder—Milo or Ovaltine in packs; milk powder, shampoo, canned goods, plastic plates, plastic spoons, sleeping mats, slippers, shoes, candles, biscuits, used clothes, and school materials like erasers, rotary guides, pencils, brown scissors, notebook, prayers, religious booklets, books and magazines, crucifixes and small statues, big crucifixes, rosary and DVD's for those of prison cells and prison officers; prayer scapulars, Sacred Heart of Jesus badges, and scientific and other religious materials. Thank you for your kindness.

Good health in 2007

When I was very sick of scoliosis in 1997, it would not have mattered if I had P1 million. A beggar would have been luckier if he could eat without vomiting. Through God's graces, I had a successful operation and could eat normally again.

But I am here on staying healthy for the rest of my life. As Rafael Castillo, my cardiologist and publisher of Health and Lifestyle magazine, has the same mission. He put up Friendly Alliance and Me, the Optimistic Inc. (FAMO) with friends four years ago and published the magazine and another informative periodical on diabetes. They are all about staying healthy.

In his Interactive column in the Science and Health section of the PDI, he explains how you can avoid getting sick by following FAMO rules.

As the year ends today, I wish my readers good health in 2007 and always I advise support reading Castillo's magazines. Call 8135455 or 8936803 to buy the magazine.

By the way, the author-table book "Sana Taon Ngarito" about Our Lady of Pilar is for sale, not free. Happy New Year.

New Year SPARKLERS

From page C1

People of the year

Time Magazine named it when they named people who unload cookies and viral videos as this Time Person of the Year. Just ask anyone who has spent hours on YouTube. Local internet users have joined in as the fun, too. Now, we no longer go to Kris Aquino's website Sunny commercials. Bulilit—bandaged without favorite rabbit from "Shall TV" and "Saturday Night Live "We also owe it to-get our dose of "Bathtub Song" humor, the Manuel Fajardo clip, Alonzo Wilson's unbelievable singing and the video blogs of Happy Shiz.

Cheers, 'cabales'

Every Kapampangan should stand up and applaud this one. Arthur Nitu, a group of young and old Pampangueños who have evolved from the Kapampangan songs and pride in Kapampangan culture in the course of their performances, to the National Commission for Culture and Arts' Gawad Alab ng Haraya award for its production performance. ArtDiki Nitu has introduced the younger generation of Pampangos to a culture beyond "Sising Co Pang Dinapang." This was obvious at a recent concert during the Holy Family High School homecoming in Angeles City.

Buffet du jour

Buffets have not it big with unique interactive cooking stations serving tasty treats from around the world. Joining the league early this year was Golden Phillipine Pizza's Spiral. Gaining strength for its chain of food stations is Edsa Shangri-La Manila's Heat. Being red already for their bountiful spread are Mandarin's Focus Bar, Makati Shangri-La's Circle and Crowne Plaza's Seven Corners. These hotel buffets bring a cornucopia of cuisine together to appease multiethnic appetites.

Back to Beijing

The nonstop flag carrier, Philippine Airlines, started its thrice-weekly flights to Beijing, with an amenity-filled maiden flight from Manila to Beijing, with an amenity-filled maiden flight from Manila to Beijing, with an amenity-filled maiden flight from Manila

New Year SPARKLERS

You've told us you miss the thumbs so here they are again, pointing up as in cheers or down as in jeers. This being New Year's Eve, you're entitled to some sparklers, even fireworks. May 2007 bring you the lifestyle your heart desires

University Bench

Classmates "Mikoyo" dubmyself most leftboards in faculty, entrepreneur **Bot Chiki** willingly gave up his (relatively) located billboard advertising for bench in the university. The billboard was, at last sighted, blocking the passersby's sight of the Far Eastern University campus, recipient of the prestigious Lifetime 100th Wide Pac Rim Cultural Heritage Awards for its restored Art Deco buildings. FEU had first refused the outdoor **advertising company** to relocate the billboard elsewhere but the request was ignored. Luckily, Bench came to the rescue. The popular clothing company stopped renting the advertising space. FEU's trustees granted by tactful formal ceremony to Bund Bench but, as usual, the love-hey Dixon said Bench does no more than one. FEU has informed to install Bench's logo on all their computers as screensaver. Now that's good advertising.

Season's electioneering

Politicians have turned the Christmas season once again with their crippling holiday greetings on posters scattered all over the metro. The posters are obviously meant to remind voters that the candidate or congressman or governor is a very nice & caring and kind-hearted person who loves children. You wonder, too, when the politician is on his last term because the name of the wife, sister, brother, or assorted replacement finds a place somewhere in the poster. As Tricia wanting Ben Hawk. Some greetings make you wish in your stomach. Worse, relentless supporters nail them onto living, breathing trees.

Photoshopped beauty

Here's a story of yet another young actress gone bold. Photos of **Angelica Panganiban** in different swimsuits were plastered on calendars of one liquor brand. She looked good, no doubt. Almost too good to be true. Rivals later blasted the women photos started making the e-mail rounds, implying that in this hi-tech world pictures do lie and Photoshop might just be the best extreme makeover technique.

MEN FRAN G.

Joys to behold.

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Most fascinating interviews of 2006, Part 2

LOS ANGELES—HERE'S wishing me and all a stress-free 2007.

For sending feedback all year round, I thank the readers. Your comments motivate me to keep writing.

In June, I broke my right arm. Call me crazy, but I did not miss a single deadline even if I was hospitalized for three days and I couldn't type for weeks. I dictated my columns to my wife, Jenner, who still does a funny imitation of me when I wore a brace on my arm and struggled to get in and out of bed (called me a simple thing—ah, the joys of marriage!). But I myself found it hilarious even though I was getting my teeth.

Despite this incident, I hit zilch in 2006 with fourteen because I resolved to many blunders, especially the miracle of my speedy recovery... perhaps accelerated by my desire to be able to drive again. (I missed mobility the most). I'll write more about this period someday.

My last column for this year is, fittingly, the conclusion of my list of 2006's most fascinating interviewees. It don't mean to sound jaded, but there are Hollywood stars whose patter makes me study the patterns on a wallpaper.

The stars on this list held my interest and kept me from gazing at other things.

Paul Newman

At 81, Paul Newman looked livid when he walked into the media room of the Lion's Motor Speedway in North Carolina but, as the elder goes, looks are deceiving. After one press con with one of Hollywood's eunuchs, he calmed up and took to the track. A little hard of hearing now, Paul was an engrossing interview of pluck and humility.

Asked to name the five most pressing issues in the world, Paul replied: "I hate to have that question thrown at me because there might be 15 other things and I haven't quite put them in order and had a chance to think. But ... obviously, the environment is critical. The Mideast is critical. Government of the people, by the people and for the people is critical and it's something that I don't think we have in this country right now. Let me leave the last two blank ... but if I had a ... poverty, anti-drinking water throughout the world and the AIDS epidemic."

Cate Blanchett

Ms. Cate proclaims her the most elegant of all the actresses today. She reciprocates as we only in the way she appears in interviews (d. wipe in stylish clothes that complements her long-legged ... untold looks) but also in how

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rufeen U. Nepales

refined she speaks and carries herself.

On the evening film "I'm Not There" where she is one of the three actors playing Bob Dylan, "Todd (Haynes who co-wrote and directed the film has said that it's not a bio pic in any sense of the word. It's basically thrilling Dylan's persona into about six different characters. It's juxtapose all those different characters, each of whom has a name that has nothing to do with Bob Dylan. Maybe we'll get close to understanding the mystique of Dylan. I play a version of him when he went electric."

Does this following statement (that she'll not spread false cards in front of us when she gets older)? "It's very easy to assume that just because people are asking if you want a cup of tea as you're getting make-up put on, the camera's pointing at you and people are asking if you want a chair, that you're more important than anyone else in the room. When you take something, it's not that you're any better than anyone else. It's just because you get maybe one-and-a-half more votes than someone else."

Woody Allen

When we flew to London to take up Woody's unprecedented invitation to talk to him on the location of his then untitled movie (the Colin Farrell-Ewan McGregor starrer is now called "Cassandra's Dream"), we discovered that Woody does not yell "Action!" or "Cut!" Instead, a crew member yells "Rolling!" and then the acclaimed director/actor merely says, "OK" to indicate a take's end.

On his famous tight guarding of his scripts (even his cast usually does not see the script to its entirety—they only get the pages with their dialogue), "I won't let anybody read the script. I don't let any body see the picture until it's finished. The companies that are willing to work with me that way seem to be European. They say, 'We'll give you the money but we won't bother you. You can go and make your film,' in the United States, they give you the money but they want to look at the script. They want to know what's in it. They like to be your partner in some way. I don't want them to be my partner."

Meryl Streep

The Great One impressed us with her singing in "A Prairie Home Companion" (after giving us a dwell of a fun time in the Cineplex with her icy antics, Miranda Priestly). Is there anything she cannot do? Meryl told us, "There are many things I can't do anymore, just by virtue of my age. I do think women are held to a different standard. I've watched this movie ['The Devil Wears Prada'] several times. The second time, I imagined a man in my character, who is maybe 6'2" tall, nice-looking, greying hair, delivering the lines almost exactly the same way that my character did—and there would be absolutely nothing offensive. Women have to wring their requests in a special package. In my observation, male directors don't have to do that."

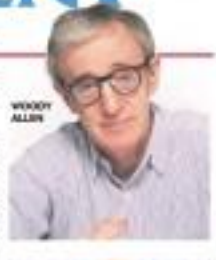
Oliver Stone

The director said he had just been to the Philippines when we congratulated him on the 20th anniversary of the release of "Platoon," which was shot in Cavite. The milestone was celebrated with a special showing of the film in Cannes last May.

Do whatever moviegoers would appreciate his "World Trade Center" purely as a human story, separate it from its political aspects. "That's a valid question ... because the [9/11]

BILLY CRYSTAL

FORREST WHITAKER



WOODY ALLEN

MERYL STREEP

Pilith Newman with PDI's man in Hollywood

Most fascinating . . .

From page D1

was so publicized that the whole world has been [spoiled] politicized. The United States told its officers, 'You're with us or you're against us.' That's a very useless point of view. Audiences could bring their ideology to the movie but it's not about that. It's about that day only, and it should make you deeply indulgent the event."

Collin Farrell

Late last year, the Irish actor did very little—almost none—given exposure for his films. The official explanation was that Colin, known for his partying and drinking ways, had checked himself into a treatment center for exhaustion and dependency on prescription medications.

Colin finally burst reporters the Ultimate Vice." Explaining that the time off allowed him "to take a kind of metaphorical deep breath," Colin looked several pounds heavier. When Colin dropped hints like "I have found a love that I never thought I'd find through my son," [we'd just wish the actor, who turned 30 this year, would henceforth run into less trouble (he's had his share of lawsuits, sex video scandals, etc.).

"I have a newfound appreciation for life. I never had that much of a will to live a long time. I was enjoying life as I was

THE COLUMNIST TALKS WITH
Martin Scorsese

through it but I never really had much of a reason to look beyond the next step. Now, I mean to be alive to see how my son grows, be his friend and his father and hang around with him."

Rinko Kikuchi

A virtually unknown Japanese actress until "Babel" came along, Rinko Kikuchi is the former [establishing] performance that year along with Jennifer Hudson ("Dreamgirls"). As we predicted, Rinko has earned Best Supporting Actress nominations for her exceptional portrayal of a deaf-mute girl lost in Tokyo.

Looking younger than her actual age, 21 Ehd's why she's credible as a high school student, Rinko sighed through an interpreter: sound beside her like she spoke in a soft, quiet voice and needed subtitles down.

On her tasks scene in "Babel": "To me, that was the most important scene in the movie. My character ... seems to be touched ... she feels it's the only way to hold on to something. She's very strong at [Hadley] to her way of conquering herself. I didn't have any problems doing that scene."

Forest Whitaker

He is not living in the despot Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland" but in person, he is a mild-mannered man. When we told Forest in Toronto that the movie reminded us of the late Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos' suicidal late regime, he said some scenes reminded him, too, of the Philippines. He explained that he had just arrived in the country to do "Bananas" as the height of the People Power revolution that brought down Marcos' rule.

"I arrived on the day Cory Aquino came to power. I saw all these people flashing the 'L' sign." There is a scene like this in "The Last King," Forest recalled that he was followed at The Manila Hotel but felt safer staying with many students involved in "Bananas." "It's no secret to "a house in Malacañang. "Imagine me surprise to have him say that!

Martin Scorsese

"The Departed" filmmaker answers questions enthusiastically, and with a smile as constant as his black-framed glasses and bushy eyebrows, plus a rich, hearty laughter.

Told that several of the actors working with him for the first time expressed awe at how quiet it could be on a Scorsese movie set, he explained: "I do ask for everyone to be as quiet as possible. One can't imagine the noise on a set—building, tearing, banging, people talking ... I allow that for a while but, at a certain point, I simply have to get it quiet so I can concentrate with the absence of photography and, particularly, the actors."

Will Smith

When Will sat down to discuss "Pursuit (San Pirlito," his [appearance film this year, he spoke softly. But somewhere in his dialogue replies to questions, he casually insisted that like, "Growing my time in prison ..." (he was never in jail) and "Now that I'm married, I'm kind of thinking about going gay ..."

On values his delightfully absurd sense of humor comes from: "I grew up in very safe, suburban Orange County—in Irvine. My theory is that there was nothing to do and I had no real issues in my life so it just allowed me to make fun of stuff in my head."

Jennifer Hudson

Looking glam in a black dress, [wearing] pretty shoes and her long hair in stylish curls, the "American Idol" finalist has undergone a makeover befitting her new sta-

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Also making it to our annual list of most engaging interviewees are Angelina Jolie, whom we just profiled last week.

...no as a heavy favorite in the Best Supporting Actress race in this female season. All Beales to her sensational performance in Elle 50ies in "Running Girls."

More about our interview with Jennifer in coming columns.

Jack Nicholson

Donning his trademark dark glasses and that grin, I'm inside, depending on how you look at it, Jack was in a mood to talk one of someone in LA. "My answers are very long," he admitted. "I've been up in my house alone for awhile so I'm a bit talkative."

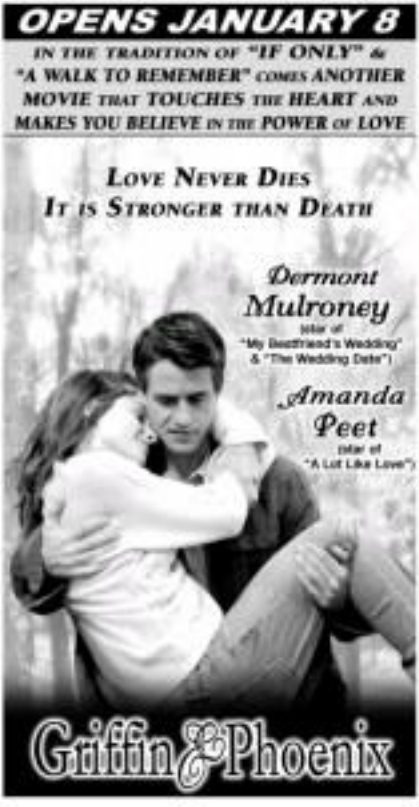
"A bit talkative" was an understatement. The answer of three hours and five Golden Globes gave such a long answer to my question on meeting 70 at April that I was afraid his reply would take up the whole time allotted to the press con. "I'm never finished," he quipped to one reporter who had asked if he was done replying to her question.

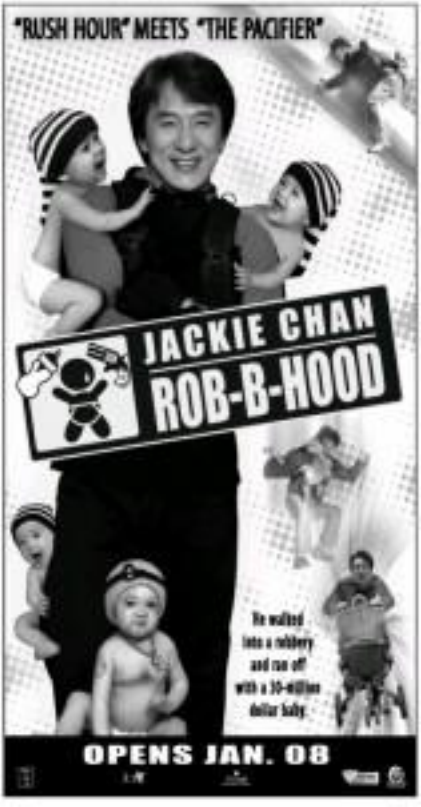
"Physical and sexual virility is one of the reasons that I'm lively. I realized this—there was that the LA Times agreed with me—more sex, not less, as you get older."

Billy Crystal

Most young people can claim that they saw Billy Crystal movie as a kid with the first great stand-up comedy Billy Crystal. But only did he watch a reunion with the music legend, he also ran circles his. This was one of the revelations in Billy's autobiographical comedy-drama, "700 Sundays," which we caught on the LA stage.

"Start Fast-paced" came to the show by Billy. With—I am dropping a huge name. He came backstage and started talking to me about the music of the show, not the actual music. He kept saying this is like a symphony to him. At this time he turned around, came back and said while pointing out at the Theater Coffin: "I can't write" He said, "You're a Border Collie." I said what does that mean. He said, "You keep looking at me and you can get into the corral. I've never seen anything like that." He walked away and kept muttering "Border Collie."





Mel Gibson

In the action director's first major press conference since his arrest last July for speeding and drunk driving—culture he unfortunately reinstated took...

Clint Eastwood

At 76, Clint movie not out, but two films on the bottle of bars films—one from an American perspective ("Flags of our Fathers") and from a Japanese point of view ("Letters from Iwo Jima"). Both are good but we prefer the latter—it's a personal, intimate account of horror and bewilderment.

"I think what we're trying to tell in these two movies is that at best, war is a futile enterprise," he said. "I would like to live the rest of my life without wars, but I probably said that at age 25."

SM CINEMA

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SHOWTIME
Your life as a movie

Kasal Kasali Kasalo

The saying "opposites attract" come true when a tomboy Lady from Bantayi'sita in love with a boy next door (Ryan Agoncillo). When the two decided to get married, wedding bi-bells come into picture. Watch how the soon-to-be married couple resolves the fabulous family dispute in this modern day love story.

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Shang Makati's New Year countdown concert stars Pops

POPS FERNANDEZ HEADLINES IN 2007 NEW'S A countdown concert dubbed "Champagne Pops" at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel Lobby tonight from 10:00 till midnight. Her special guest is Idol Filipino Jay-R.

"The concert is a first in Pops' long career. "I've never done a New Year's Eve countdown

SHOW TIME

BLOOMFIELDS

POPS FERNANDEZ

before," she says. "I'm usually on vacation at end of town with my family and kids."

Pops will be doing "a lot of fun," celebrity-type songs from the '70s and '80s—never a dull moment, that's for sure."

As for Jay-R, she says he's "one of the most soulful performers in the classic today." They have done a couple of shows in the US. "We work pretty well together," Pops says.

Pyro-musical show

SM Mall of Asia presents a choreographed fireworks show tonight, provided exclusively by the pyrotechnics company Pyrotechnico.

The display starts at 7 p.m. and goes on every hour, on the hour. At midnight, the show begins. Singer Kim Pieros will also perform.

Holidays at Boulevar

Boulevar at the Manila Pavilion promises the ritziest fireport tonight at 9. Call 528-1212.

Retro Countdown

The Bellevue's Retro Countdown Party tonight stars The Bloomfields. The band takes audiences back to the swinging '60s. Call 771-4141.

Special at Mark's

Mark's Bar Resto's own countdown concert features Sweika and the Sealed Our Band. Call 757-4128.

Also tonight

RJ with Mitch Valdes at the Baguio Country Club

January 1

Jesse A with Midnight Convention at RJ'S Bar, Ingeles St., Makati

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with GRETCHEN BARRETO

TANYA GARCIA BIANCA KING with ANA CAPRI

MATAKOT KA SA KARMA

JOSE JAVIER REYES

'Starstruck' 20: SWOT profiles

From page D4

G—determination to be a star; T—gentle

RICH ARMENDIS, 17, of Iloilo went to college scholarship when she was crowned Miss Tagbilaran, she believes life can be hard, but that she can survive through perseverance. L—dancing; W—singing; D—theater at becoming an actress; T—kind.

FREDIE STERNE, 17, of Iloilo wants to become a recording artist and dreams of doing a duet with Regine Velasquez. He claims his father is a prince from Saudi Arabia, whom his mother met when she worked there. S—singing, dancing, acting; W—acting; G—sees himself as an actor someday; T—loving his confidence to compete.

ALJOE ARRANCIZA, 16, is from Pampanga. He has been named by some of his classmates as a Dingdong Dantes look-alike. He's an only child of a school head. L—singing, dancing; W—acting; D—sees himself as a singer or an actor; T—dancer of his family depends on him.

JEEP PRESCOTT, 16, grew up in the United States before moving to the Philippines, where he entered "Starstruck" second season. Louie Sebastian, the describes as strong-willed and willing to give everything he is to shine. S—personality and determination; W—love acting; G—can't say yet; T—other contestants who, she says, are all beautiful, talented and as determined to win it.

MAVE VALDEZQUEZ, 20, feels she has Nikki Gil's, whom he has yet to meet. "He casts a pretty long shadow, but I'm not trying to be him ... I'd rather be appreciated as myself." Dave has been a recording artist in the US, having cut a record for a small record label. L—his drawings; W—Tagalog; G—get to know Pinoy culture and prove he's not just Mikey Mayo's puppet; T—being labeled a Mikey wannabe.

RAZEL IY, 17, is studying to be an engineer at the University of San Carlos in Cebu. While performing her song number for the press, Razel's microphone was off but she finished it. Then she sang it again without accompaniment during the press portion with the media. G—empower people and is very spiritual; W—being overpowered by competitors; G—seek recognition as a singer; T—shy.

LIZZY PECSON, 19, of Pampanga, is one of the youngest in the batch. She is not afraid to fail, saying, "I'm not bitter about losers but I'm bitter that you did not give your best." S—faith in God; W—adverse situations; G—meeting other people; T—smooth.

KIKE SEDOL, 17, of Quezon City has appeared on the cover of a magazine. She is a freshman at the Trinity College, where she indulges in theater activities. S—her mom's support; W—negative attitudes; G—sees herself a future superstar; T—outspoken.

JOJO CORCUERA, 16, is proud to be gay. She says she found out she was gay at age 11. She loves to play computer games and dreams of becoming an actress. S—being gay; W—being gay; G—her; T—most talented contestant.

COLIN FARRELL

OLIVER STONE

Most fascinating interviews . . .

To see page D4

Edward Norton

He is under-appreciated but in our book, he is one of America's finest actors, impressing us with his intensity in such films as "Primal Fear," "American History X" [he was chilling as a wrenched white supremacist] and "The People vs. Larry Flynt." This year, we liked him better in "The Illusionist" (talk about intense, a crotch fetish concentrate in summer-spirit-in-carnage) than in "The Departed 2," a film adaptation of W. Somerset Maugham's novel set mainly in 1920s China.

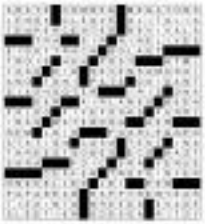
When a window panel at a luncheon room at the Waldorf Astoria accidentally opened and for a while no one could close it to prevent chilly winds from ripping through the room, Edward was unperturbed and calmly continued answering questions. He raved about how he rifle the food was in Beijing and Shanghai where they filmed "The Painted Veil."

"And then we went to the mountains in South Central China. In one town there was a restaurant that had a menu board every night. The menu varied between bamboo rat, cat, dog, raccoon and snake. We stuck to tofu and vegetables mostly."

After making it to our annual list of most engaging interviewees are Angelina Jolie, whom we just profiled last week, and Ely Buendia's long-suffering, George Clooney, our next subject in a coming column.

E-mail the columnist at renpalo_55@yahoo.com.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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2 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
3 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8
4 MANO PO 5
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHURCH FELLOWSHIP
7 ZSA ZSA ZATURNNAH
8 SUPER NOYPI
9 TATLONG BARAHA
10 LIGALIG

ERMITA

1 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
2 LIGALIG
3 ZSA ZSA ZATURNNAH
4 MANO PO 5
5 MATAKOT KA SA KARMA
6 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
7 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8

METRO EAST

1 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
3 ZSA ZSA ZATURNNAH
4 SUPER NOYPI
5 MATAKOT KA SA KARMA
6 MANO PO 5
7 LIGALIG
8 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8

NOVALICHES

1 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8
2 SUPER NOYPI
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
4 MATAKOT KA SA KARMA
5 MANO PO 5
6 ZSA ZSA ZATURNNAH
7 LIGALIG
8 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO

CITISQUARE MALABON — PIONEER

1 SUPER NOYPI
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
3 MATAKOT KA SA KARMA
4 ZSA ZSA ZATURNNAH

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2 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8
3 SUPER NOYPI
4 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
5 MANO PO 5

DASMARINAS — ANGELES

1 SUPER NOYPI
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
3 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8
4 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
5 MANO PO 5
1 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
2 MANO PO 5
3 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
4 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8

IMUS — STARMILLS

1 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8
2 MATAKOT KA SA KARMA
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
4 ZSA ZSA ZATURNNAH
5 LIGALIG
6 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
1 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
3 SUPER NOYPI
4 MANO PO 5
5 LIGALIG
6 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO

BACOLOD — ILOILO

1 MANO PO 5
2 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8
3 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
5 THE INATIVITY STORY
6 SUPER NOYPI
1 ZSA ZSA ZATURNNAH
2 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
3 MANO PO 5
4 SUPER NOYPI
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
6 SHAKE, RATTLE and ROLL 8

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JEWEL MISCHE

DEX GUINEZOA

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AJUR ARMENICA

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'Starstruck' 20: SWOT profiles

By Nini Valera

MEET THE TOP 20 "STARSTRUCK" survivors.

In their press launch on Wednesday, ABS-CBN Entertainment asked each of them to list down their strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats to make for a SWOT analysis, a marketing practice that is applied to a brand before it is launched in the market place.

MAET DELFRADO, 16, of Cavite spends most of his time at Internet cafés in the area. If his dream of musician is fulfilled, he would like to help patients in the pediatric ward of the Philippine General Hospital. S—looks and talent. W—singing. O—chance to make good. T—don't see anyone who shares as well as he does.

ERIC JUNIO, 16, of Bacoor describes himself as "full of anger." His father is serving time in prison for drug possession. He says he's been self but never used drugs. S—soft heart and pleasing personality. W—his attitude and jealousy. O—sees himself in the Top 14. T—rejection by fans.

JEWEL MISCHE, 16, of Sulucan is a student at the UP Diliman Government of Manila. She plays the guitar, plays and saxophone, and is one of the only females. S—God. W—the poverty she was around her. O—wants to train to be a pilot. T—to lose interest.

LEE PEREZ, 19, comes from South Cotabato and enjoys golf. A sports enthusiast, he was a member of his school's swimming team, co-captain of the basketball team, and a key player in the football team. S—self-confidence. W—having talent in singing and dancing. O—looks he would trade it to top 14. T—Twins.

CHARLENE SOLOMON, 17, describes herself as "a natural." The girl from Sunny City says she is smart and sings true to herself. S—her body, talent and appeal. W—her face. O—sees herself as another Katrina Halili. T—her persistence and lack of self-discipline.

ABS RANGAL of Laguna has a passion for cars and drag racing. The 20-year-old is also a big brother. S—God. W—family issues. O—his business partners. T—None.

DENISE LAUSA, 17, is a student of Ateneo de Davao. She has both beauty and brains, she says, having received honors every year for her academic endeavors. S—confidence and talent. W—acting. O—acting career being a star is magic and wonder. T—negative comments.

DEX GUINEZOA, 17, is from Tondo Manila. He enjoys swimming, dancing, singing and acting. S—singing, dancing, acting. W—his shyness. O—his determination to succeed. T—Packs, which a former is on.

ANJAI AVELINO, 15, of Baguio City describes himself as a "gitarista." He has been both TV and print ads. S—acting. W—singing. O—opportunity to become a star. T—Age.

GRACE RIBERIO, 20, was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, raised in Holland, and now lives in Cebu. He says he speaks fluent Dutch, German, French, English, Filipino and Cebuano. S—dancing. W—his family separated. Together. O—improve himself as a person. T—a Dutch accent.

JEAN DE CASTRO, 17, spent her childhood in Japan and now lives in Mandaluyong. She enjoys listening to jazz and rock music, but describes herself as a quiet person. S—acting and perseverance. W—family values.

OPENS JANUARY 8!